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Near East/South Asia Report

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ALGERIA

HUMAN RIGHTS LEADER 'HARASSED' BY AUTHORITIES

PM140830 Paris LE MONDE in French 10 Oct 86 p 2

["J.G." report: "Algeria: Chairman of Human Rights League Prevented From Leaving Country"]

[Text] Following his release after 11 months' imprisonment Mr Abennour Ali-yahia, founder and chairman of the Algerian Human Rights League, not recognized by the authorities, is experiencing further troubles. Having sent us several letters which, he says, "were diverted from their destination," he sent us a message saying that he is living "under the constant threat of another arrest, suffering harassments, telephone taps, and the monitoring and confiscation of part of my mail."

Though invited to a meeting on "international human rights observance" at UNESCO headquarters in Paris on 11 October, he will be unable to attend. In fact he has been forbidden to leave Algeria and the police have withdrawn his passport following an attempt to leave the country in response to an invitation from the International Human Rights Federation early this summer.

The Justice Ministry has also asked that Mr Ali-yahia--who has taken the risk of representing defendants of all persuasions in political trials--be debarred. The authorities believe that his sentencing in 1985 for the "illegal" foundation of the league entails "a loss of civil rights" under common law.

Mr Ali-yahia is hoped for "a public campaign in support of the other founder members of the league still behind bars in Algerian prisons at Berrouaghia and Lambeze, where conditions of detention are particularly difficult."

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CSO: 4500/24

ALGERIA

JOINT ALGERIAN, URUGUAYAN COMMUNIQUE ISSUED

PM270740 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 14 Oct 86 p 3

[APS report on Algerian-Uruguayan Joint Communique issued at end of official visit to Uruguay by Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid]

[Text] At the kind invitation of His Excellency Julio Maria Sanguinetti, president of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, His Excellency Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and secretary general of the FLN, accompanied by his wife and a large official delegation, made a visit to the Oriental Republic of Uruguay from 10 to 13 October 1986.

During the visit, which took place in an atmosphere of friendship, cordiality, and accord, the talks between the two official delegations related to fundamental international problems and to cooperation and trade between the two countries.

At the end of President Chadli Bendjedid's state visit to the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, the two sides agreed to sign the following joint statement:

The two sides reaffirmed their full respect for the rules of international law which should govern relations between states, particularly those which relate to the sovereign equality of states, their independence and sovereignty, respect for their territorial integrity, self-determination for peoples, and noninterference and nonintervention in states' internal affairs.

Solidarity With the Southern African Peoples

They reaffirmed their support for the principles and objectives enshrined in the UN Charter and expressed their intention to make a decisive contribution to efforts to preserve international peace and security, and to promote international cooperation on development, and to give their firm support to the principle of solving conflicts peacefully and preventing the use or threat of force.

Analyzing the international situation, the two sides emphasized the fact that it is characterized by a marked deterioration caused by an increase in tensions, a resurgence of conflicts, the speeding up of the arms race, particularly the nuclear arms race, and the exacerbation of the world economic crisis and its effects which are most severe for the developing countries.

In this context they expressed their deep concern over the escalation in the arms race through the continued allocation of valuable resources to the manufacture and acquisition of both conventional weapons and weapons of mass destruction, which are not just a serious threat to international peace but also a drain on vital human and material resources which ought to be devoted to ensuring progress and prosperity for peoples.

Being aware of the importance of the full development of man and of peoples in an environment of peace, freedom, democracy, and social justice, the two sides reaffirmed their unshakable pledge to work to promote respect for human rights and basic freedoms, and for the right of peoples to self-determination, security, and well-being. They rejected all kinds of racial, religious, or sex discrimination. Examining the situation in southern Africa, the two sides condemned the apartheid system which the international community as a whole has described as a crime against humanity.

They reaffirmed their solidarity with the southern African peoples and their support for their struggle to dismantle this system. They expressed the view that compulsory global sanctions are a way of speeding up international action to end apartheid.

The two sides reaffirmed their strong and determined support for the Namibian people's right to self-determination and independence in accordance with Security Council Resolution 435 (1978). They also expressed their deep gratitude for the efforts of the UN council for Namibia--the only legal authority recognized by the international community--to administer Namibian territory until its independence. They again condemned the delay in implementing the solution to the Namibian question and the persistence of the illegal occupation of this territory which is a real challenge to the will of the international community.

Central America: Noninterference in States' Internal Affairs

Examining developments in Central America, the two sides agreed that the diplomatic negotiation process backed by the Contadora Group is a practical means of obtaining political agreement making it possible to establish the essential foundations for peace in the region by the signing and implementation of the Contadora act for peace and cooperation in Central America and by honoring the pledges made in it. To this end they expressed the view that it is vital for all sides or all countries having ties or interests in the region to refrain from supporting irregular and subversive forces acting in all countries in the region or trying to upset and destabilize the constitutional order in these states. They reaffirmed their conviction that if peace is to be established in the Central American region, it is vital to ensure scrupulous respect for the principles of noninterference by one state in another's internal affairs--a principle enshrined in international law.

The two sides reaffirmed their recognition of Argentina's just claim to sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands and launched a new appeal for a

solution to be found to this problem in accordance with UN Resolution 4021 through dialogue and negotiation or by any other peaceful means of settling conflicts.

They expressed their concern over the existence of weapons and military installations in the South Atlantic region which create a hotbed of tension and make it difficult to find agreement. Similarly they expressed their concern over attempts to undermine the efforts to turn Africa and the Middle East into nuclear-free zones and the Mediterranean into a zone of peace and cooperation.

Examining the Middle East crisis, the two sides stressed the fact that it cannot be solved without a solution to the Palestinian question through a just, lasting, and comprehensive settlement recognizing the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights. Similarly, they reiterated their appeal for an international peace conference to be held under UN auspices.

The two sides reaffirmed their support for UN General Assembly Resolution 40-50 which establishes that the West Sahar question is part of a decolonization process which must be completed on the basis of the West Saharan people's right to self-determination and independence. In accordance with this resolution, they stressed that the cease-fire and referendum to be organized without administrative or military constraints by the United Nations and the OAU should be the subject of direct negotiations between the parties to the conflict as identified by this resolution. The two sides reaffirmed their support for the current OAU chairman and the UN secretary general in their combined good offices.

Toward an International Conference on Africa's Overseas Debt

Discussing the international economic situation, the two sides expressed their serious concern over the deterioration of the world economy and its implications for the developing countries. They reaffirmed their conviction that this situation is caused by the unjust and inappropriate system which at present governs international economic relations.

They expressed their deep anxiety over the foreign debt which has engendered a serious international political problem. In this connection, they said that the foreign debt question should be tackled in a coordinated way through the combined efforts of the developed and developing countries' governments, the multilateral financial bodies, and the banking system. In this context, the two sides stressed the importance of the efforts made by the Cartagena Group to find a solution to this problem in Latin America.

After assessing the critical nature of the economic situation in Africa, the two sides appealed to the international community to speed up its contribution to African economic recovery in accordance with the decisions made by the 13th UN General Assembly session devoted to the serious economic situation on that continent. In this connection, they emphasized the importance of an international conference on Africa's foreign debt.

The two sides expressed their deep concern over the increase in protectionist measures on the main markets of the developed countries which are affecting freedom of trade and are a worrying obstacle to the flow of goods and to the developing countries' access to these markets, commerce being an extremely important area in the developing countries' strategy of economic and social growth.

They stressed the need for the developed countries to immediately implement pledges on the status quo, especially to lift protectionism and remove the obstacles to the marketing of agricultural products through measures such as export subsidies and to strengthen markets for basic products to ensure fair and lucrative prices for the producers.

After noting the worrying fall in raw materials prices they stressed the need for coordinated and concerted international action to remedy this situation and ensure that the producers receive fair and lucrative prices.

After noting the deterioration in the international financial and monetary situation and its instability, the two sides reaffirmed their conviction of the need to convene an international conference on currency and finances.

Joint Cooperation and Cultural Exchanges Commission

The two sides reaffirmed the validity of global negotiations which provide an appropriate framework for tackling monetary and financial problems, the debt, resources, commerce, raw materials, and development in an integrated way.

They agreed on the vital need to establish a new international economic order with a view to restructuring the present system of world economic relations on the basis of justice and mutual prosperity.

The two sides called for the strengthening of cooperation among the developing countries and reaffirmed their support for the principles, objectives, and framework of this development. In this connection they stressed the particular importance of the recent "Cairo II" statement of 23 August 1986 and the Harare statement of 6 September 1986 in the framework of the Nonaligned Movement.

The two sides made an extensive examination of cooperation and trade between their two countries and reaffirmed their desire to make every effort to ensure that Algerian-Uruguayan cooperation develops in a balanced and mutually advantageous way. In this connection they welcomed the progress made in adopting appropriate measures for strengthening cooperation between the two countries. In this connection, the two presidents decided to call on the competent bodies in each of the two countries to specify possible areas of cooperation in the general framework of economic complementarity.

In this connection they warmly welcomed the contacts recently established between the two countries, including the visit to Algeria by a Uruguayan trade mission and the opening of a resident Uruguayan diplomatic mission in Algiers.

They also expressed their satisfaction over the signing in Algiers on 5 February 1986 of the trade agreement aimed at promoting commercial relations between the two countries by means of expanding and diversifying their trade on the basis of equality, reciprocity, and mutual interest. They promised to support the current initiatives to strengthen trade between the two countries in the near future.

They agreed to study possible technical cooperation plans to exchange experience and technical resources in areas of mutual interest.

Being convinced of the need to develop mutual knowledge of the customs and traditions of their two peoples, the two sides agreed to step up and extend artistic and cultural exchanges.

To these ends the two sides agreed on the principle of setting up a joint cooperation commission between the two countries and a cultural exchange body through intergovernmental agreements the terms of which will be negotiated later.

President Chadli Bendjedid expressed his gratitude to President Julio Maria Sanguinetti for the respect, friendship, and courtesy shown to him during his first state visit to Uruguay and for the care taken of him and the warmth of the welcome given to him and the Algerian delegation during their visit.

President Chadli Bendjedid invited President Julio Maria Sanguinetti to make a state visit to Algeria. The president of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay accepted this invitation with pleasure, and the date of the visit will be fixed later through diplomatic channels.

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CSO: 4500/24

COURT VINDICATES OFFICERS, ORDERS AL-RAYAH PAPER TO PAY DAMAGES

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Sep 86 pp 19-22

[Article: "Will al-Sadiq Government Restore Dignity to Armed Forces?"]

[Text] On 30 August 1986, the Sudanese judiciary issued its verdict on a most famous case connected with defamation and libel, namely the case of the officers retired in the wake of the success of the Sudanese uprising of April 1985. The court convicted AL-RAYAH, the mouthpiece of the Islamic National Front, and ordered it to pay damages amounting to 2,345,000 pounds. The court also fined or issued jail sentences against AL-RAYAH's editor-in-chief, one of its editors, and its printers. AL-RAYAH had accused 11 officers of the armed forces of ideology, of contacts with Garang, and of amassing vast fortunes, meaning by the accusation that the officers were Ba'thists or communists. AL-DUSTUR has explored the impact of the sentence on the retired officers, considering that the accusations made by AL-RAYAH undermine the military honor which has been restored to them by the judiciary. Following is their testimony, the testimony of their defense counsel and a legist's opinion on the army's connection with politics.

Staff Maj Gen 'Uthman Idris Ballul:

"Because the charge undermines one's honor and dignity, especially since we are high-ranking officers, I believe that no verdict, whether for millions or something else, can compensate one for his honor. In this endeavor of ours, we are not pursuing material reparation. Our main concern has been to get a court verdict convicting the paper of false allegations and libel. This is certainly tied to establishing the truth.

"For us, as long as our objective has been the objective of having the court clear us of the serious charges made against us by AL-RAYAH, namely lackeyhood, the attempt to stage a coup, contacts with foreign powers, and contacts with John Garang, and as long as the court has cleared us of these charges, I believe that we have finally convinced the Sudanese people that we are innocent of the charges made against us and that we have nothing to do with such activities."

Col Muhammad Ahmad Qasim:

"I believe that the sentence issued is less than they [defendants] deserve for numerous reasons, including the fact that all the retired officers without exception served long periods in the ranks of the armed forces and devoted their

lives to this country. When it published the retirement report, AL-RAYAH did not at all seek to find the facts and learn the truth from the authorities in charge. On the contrary, the paper was determined to cling to the accusations it made in its report and made absolutely no effort to retract them or to apologize for the falsity of the report it published. It is enough for us that the guilty is convicted and that his conviction is declared in the era of democracy."

Lt Col Mu'tasam Yusuf Muhammad Sa'id:

"The verdict has cleared us of the charges made against us. They are very disgraceful and humiliating charges that undermined our dignity, especially since we are in a position in which we are supposed to protect and defend the country's dignity, reputation, and history. We stress that no matter how difficult our circumstances become, we cannot sink to the level of lackeyhood because it is a most serious treason against the country, especially since we are in an establishment that is supposed to protect the country, not steal from it and engage in treason against it. As for our contacts with Garang or others, we stress that we could never do this when we know that there are those among Sudan's sons who fight to protect the country's soil and unity.

"As for our being communists, Ba'thists, or something else, this is a groundless accusation. If we view it from this angle, keeping in mind that we live in a democratic era, it is impossible that we are the only partisans in the army and that the army has been purged by ousting us, the 11 officers, as communists or Ba'thists. On the contrary, there are parties operating in the army. This does not, of course, confirm our belonging to such groups. What we are saying is that in this democratic era, it is wrong to be punished unless we truly engage in obvious political activity. Therefore, the verdict which has been issued and which has cleared us of the charges made against us has been a relief to us. This makes us say that the judiciary are just and impartial, and this is an honor to the country generally.

"As for our reinstatement, we will continue to pursue this line until we reach a result. We have so far exerted efforts with numerous circles to rehabilitate us, to reinstate us in the service, and to restore our dignity which has been flouted unjustly and for no sin on our part. What is surprising is that the Transitional Military Council reinstated in the service officers who had been brought to trial and retired by the former president when he was minister of defense. The Transitional Military Council did reinstate those officers, but not us. Moreover, we find that the Military Council opened the doors for and rewarded the security agency which all people have demanded be brought to trial and disbanded. This is surprising. If the previous regime had not been toppled, the former president would have rewarded this agency's officers. But the former president was gone. However, the Military Council came to reward them and reinstate them. On the other hand, even though we have sacrificed our lives, reputation, families and numerous other things and even though we made other dear sacrifices to eliminate the defunct regime we find that instead of being honored, we are rewarded with ouster and retirement. We are still struggling to return to the armed forces.

"As for the decision to oust us, we know that this decision was supposed to be issued on the recommendation of the general commander. A lieutenant colonel is a middle-rank officer in the army and there are thousands of lieutenant

colonels in the Sudanese army. So how could the general commander know me from Adam and how could he make a recommendation concerning me? Such a recommendation is supposed to be channelled up gradually, i.e., from my direct superior to his superior to the head of the Officers' Affairs Section to the Administration Agency's head and then to the general commander. On the basis of the preceding recommendations, the general commander makes his recommendation to the head of the state to oust such and such an officer. We wonder: Where did the general commander get the recommendation? So far, there is no proof that the general commander received a recommendation from anybody. On what did the general commander base his recommendation and how did he know us? Was there personal acquaintance between these officers, ranking from major general to brigadier general, colonel, lieutenant colonel and major, and the general commander? This is certainly not true. So, there are matters of which we are not aware and which were supposed to be made clear to us and to the Sudanese people generally. We tried to prevent all camps from raising arms against the uprising masses. Rather, we stood with the masses in the streets and quarters and did all we could to eliminate the defunct regime that has gone forever. Despite this, the Military Council ousted and retired us.

"On top of this, our rights were dispensed to us in full. We wonder: On what basis were our rights dispensed to us in full? I consider the dispensation of these rights an attempt to get rid of us. If there was anything to convict us, we should have been tried. If convicted, we would not have been entitled to these rights and the court could have decided not to dispense them to us. Why were our rights dispensed even though we had been ousted for a crime? What is the crime? All these are questions that each of us asks. Consequently, it can be said that the Transitional Military Council relied on arguments which it concealed and did not wish to reveal because by revealing them it would have become clear that it would incriminate itself and that it did not have a legal support for what it was accusing us of or what it was telling the people. Any legal support or charge would have brought us to trial and a verdict would have then been issued, either by a sovereignty decree or by a military court formed according to the crime committed. This is why the Military Council was afraid to touch this issue."

'Ali Ahmad al-Sa'id, a member of the prosecution counsel, said on this issue:

"Eleven officers were retired by the Transitional Military Council after the uprising. In the wake of their retirement, AL-RAYAH reported the news. However, it did not report it as contained in the Military Council's decision, but added to it some phrases which [as published]. All the defense did was to say that what happened could not be considered an insult or an act of defamation or that it did not, at least, cause material damage.

"It is true that the case took a long time and that the sessions were postponed. Yet, we endured the delay which was always caused by the absence of the defendants--an absence which almost resulted in sentencing the individuals concerned in absentia. When the new litigation law was amended, a big court was formed to settle the issue and it did settle it by issuing the well-known verdict.

"It is our opinion that the sentence is fundamentally correct. However, we have our opinion on some parts of this sentence, and I am expressing here my

personal opinion. As a prosecuting counsel, we will meet in the next few days to define or formulate a final opinion on the sentence and decide whether to accept it in its present form or to partially appeal against it. Generally, no opinion should be expressed on the sentence now so that the course of justice may not be influenced. But we can generally say that it is fundamentally correct and that we have our observations on some of its parts.

"The verdict itself merits a pause. I believe that it has restored the honor of the plaintiffs and the dignity and respect of the armed forces--a dignity and respect that must always be present so that people may not assault the armed forces or influence them in any manner.

"In accordance with this verdict, we find that the dismissal of these officers is groundless and is for no known reason. The officers have filed a constitutional lawsuit in this connection. I believe that this verdict may help greatly in the lawsuit to reinstate them in the service. If the decision to dismiss the officers was based on the suspicions, reported by AL-RAYAH, that the officers belong to Ba'thist or ideological cells, these suspicions have been proven groundless. The defense witnesses have been able to produce nothing in this regard. This is considered enough proof that their dismissal was not founded on sound bases, if linked to these beliefs. Therefore, I believe that this will constitute the basis of the lawsuit being pursued to reinstate the officers. Brig Gen Yasin Sharaf-al-Din, one of the dismissed officers, has been reinstated since the dismissal decision. If this is possible for him, then it can apply to the others."

Commenting on the army's involvement in politics, lawyer Yahya Muhammad al-Husayn said:

"The decision to oust the officers in the wake of the uprising surprised all the political forces. We consider the accusation of belonging to an ideology to be an honor, not a disgrace. Failure to observe military rules and discipline is what disgraces a military man and undermines his honor and his commitment to the military establishment, to his country, and to his people. It is well-known that the dismissed officers formed a part of the pressuring force or led the force which exerted strong pressure and caused the armed forces to side with the people on 6 April 1986. Their reward was their dismissal.

"Previously, charges were made against people on the basis of the information the previous regime received from military intelligence and from the State Security Agency.

"Some forces with interest in fishing in troubled water took the initiative and accused these officers of lackeyhood, of receiving money from foreign powers, and of other things. This is a very cheap method and it is damaging even to the military establishment as a whole which can be accused of being an instrument against the people. But we find that AL-RAYAH asserts that these officers had planned a coup before the uprising. This proves two facts: First, that these officers played an honorable role before the uprising and second, that these officers--and this was proven by the court--did not receive money and were not anybody's agents, but officers who stood honorably with their people's cause and who represented a pressure force seeking to make the armed forces stand in the same trench with the people and against the former regime.

"The verdict issued is in itself a crown adorning the heads of these officers. Moreover, the court was truly an arena where their positions and accomplishments were detailed, making it clear that some of them are better qualified professionally than others. One of these officers was a professor in the highest military academy in the Sudan and had graduated qualified cadres who attest to this capability, expertise, and knowledge.

"If there is something I wish to say it is that people have always called for keeping hands off of this establishment. This does not, of course, prevent the officers and soldiers of this establishment from embracing political ideas, considering that they come from homes that engage in politics and that have their affiliations. But the political affiliation and robe drops or is removed as soon as a soldier dons his military uniform and accepts the commission to perform a specific task. However, this does not prevent the soldier from sympathizing emotionally with this or that side.

"The issue of these officers is a part of the issue of all the dismissed officers. We have supported this issue because thousands of officers have been driven out of the military establishment for no reason other than their belief that the military establishment must resume performing its role remotely from politics. The former regime manipulated the armed forces and skillfully played the game of concessions, which it had mastered, against them. At the outset, that regime manipulated the armed forces. But when it became unable to do so, it set up a parallel agency, namely, the State Security Agency. The regime then embarked on sabotaging the armed forces by dismissing the patriotic officers from the service, by ousting them, or by liquidating them. All these officers are in the same trench and they are in agreement that they must return to the armed forces to contribute alongside their brothers in these forces, especially since we are under circumstances which dictate that we require these officers to return to the armed forces, even if they don't wish to do so, in order that they may work to protect the country. The country is open nowadays to conflicts and ripe for explosions in numerous areas on our southern, western, and eastern borders. We find that part of the sabotage to which these forces have been subjected is the removal of their capable officers. Consequently, it is the government's duty to reinstate these officers, without labeling this officer or "vetoing" that one as an ideologist. The army does not belong to a specific political force. It belongs to the Sudan and all of the Sudan's citizens are entitled to have the honor of belonging to this establishment."

These officers submitted to the chairman and members of the State Council and to the armed forces supreme commander a memorandum making clear their opinion of the illegality of the decision to dismiss and oust them, demanding proof of any charge that they are a danger to military discipline or conduct, and stating that no investigation or interrogation was conducted with them and they were dismissed in accordance with article 34 (A) of the armed forces law which was devised by the previous regime to liquidate its opponents or to retire them according to temperament or rumors or on the strength of malicious reports. They pointed out that this constitutes a misuse of power and an offense to the armed forces, noting the befuddled nature of the decision by the reinstatement of Brig Gen Yasin Sharaf-al-Din, one of the dismissed officers, without offering any justifications for either his dismissal or his reinstatement.

It should be noted that the sentence issued against AL-RAYAH is for 2,345,000 pounds and that the editor-in-chief, the owner of the colored photography shop, and one of the editors were fined 1,000 pounds each. The court also decided to impound AL-RAYAH property and the photography shop immediately until the set fine is paid. It is well-known that the lawsuit was filed last year.

The damages the court awarded the plaintiffs were as follows:

Staff Maj Gen 'Uthman Idris Ballul	(retired)	250,000 pounds
Brig Gen Yasin Sharaf-al-Din	(retired)	250,000 pounds
Staff Brig Gen Salah Husayn	(retired)	250,000 pounds
Col Muhammad Ahmad Qasim	(retired)	225,000 pounds
Lt Col Mu'tasam Yusuf	(retired)	200,000 pounds
Lt Col Anwar 'Awad	(retired)	200,000 pounds
Lt Col Mahmud Ibrahim	(retired)	200,000 pounds
Staff Lt Col Salim Hasan Fadl al-Sayyid	(retired)	200,000 pounds
Maj Hasan 'Abdallah	(retired)	190,000 pounds
Maj Sayf-al-Din al-'Ubayd	(retired)	190,000 pounds
Maj al-Fatih Nur al-Da'im	(retired)	190,000 pounds

What remains to be said is that heaven opens its doors to the imploration of the oppressed and does not repel it. All the evidence and proofs have proven the innocence, integrity, and capability of these officers and of others who were dismissed under Numayri's administration. Will the government agree to reinstate and restore their honor and respect or will we stay where we are in this matter, especially since the armed forces need all their capability at this particular time?

8494/5915
CSO: 4504/2

BRIEFS

GUM ARABIC EXPORTS--AL-ITTIHADI has learned of the announcement made regarding the export of large amounts of gum arabic to foreign markets. Dr Muhammad Yusuf Abu-Hurayrah, minister of trade, cooperation, and supply said that the export of these amounts will yield to the country more than 30 million dollars in hard currency. [Text] [Khartoum AL-ITTIHADI in Arabic 8 Oct 86 p 1] /7358

CSO: 4504/36

IMPROVEMENT OF CIVIL DEFENSE MEASURES EXAMINED

Manamah AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 23 Sep 86 pp 1, 4

[Article by Hafiz Imam: "New Bill Makes Safekeeping of Water Resources and Foodstuffs a Part of Civil Defense"]

[Text] A civil defense bill plan has been prepared. Colonel 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin Rashid Al Khalifah, director of the Civil Defense and Fire Department Administration, said that the bill will be presented soon to the Civil Defense Committee to be discussed and forwarded to the authorities as a step toward finalizing the legal text. He also said that the planned bill widens the field of civil defense and gives it several responsibilities that will require cooperation and coordination among concerned governmental entities.

He added that the responsibility for civil defense require it to rise to its responsibilities in confronting natural disasters and those of human or resulting from wars. "In a wider perspective", he said, "it is the responsibility of civil defense to maintain and preserve life. This includes protecting water sources and maintaining food and medicine reserves. The planned bill will give the civil defense authorities the task of protecting these resources as much as possible. We are now responsible for a 6-month food reserve as well as for medicine reserves", he said. "This will be done in total cooperation with the ministries that specialize in these fields. Our mission is to ensure the existence of the reserves and to monitor them. That does not mean that we are taking away the prerogatives of other ministries and institutions that oversee food and medicine. The creative coordination will continue."

The colonel, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin Rashid Al Khalifah, pointed out that he had visited Gulf countries and developing nations since 1 January to learn about their experiences. He said: "We found that to cope with these catastrophes, it is not enough that we simply build air-raid shelters or sound warning sirens. A public awareness of these dangers must exist and the public must participate in civil defense operations. There are those who think that civil defense activities and memberships should be open to voluntary public participation. It is, however, up to the venerable cabinet to decide on that."

The director of the Civil Defense and Fire Department Administration said that the planned bill refers to the necessity of teaching civil defense in high schools and colleges. "In coordination with the Public Foundation for Youth

and Sports," he said, "we have trained groups of young men in civil defense work. Our objective is to create civil defense cells in each area and part of the country so that every citizen would know what to do and how to act in crises." Colonel Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin Rashid Al Khalifah also said that the planned new civil defense bill will require building owners to have air-raid shelters in the structures they build. When this law is enacted, it will affect construction methods.

The civil defense director added: "We are now awaiting the enactment of the new law which will determine the scope and suitability of the Civil Defense and Fire Department Administration and its relationship with other government institutions and agencies."

Colonel Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin Rashid Al Khalifah asserted that the civil defense system continues to increase the competence of all its staff members through continuous training and provision of new equipment. He said that the various ministries have realized the importance of civil defense and have started dispatching many of their young employees to study how their facilities can be safeguarded within the framework of their autonomous security plans for these ministries and facilities. An electrical facility differs from a water facility and is not a transportation facility. A number of those young men in Europe are studying protection, security and civil defense techniques, especially as they apply to factories and their security patrols.

In talking about improving and modernizing the civil defense and firefighting system, Colonel Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin Rashid Al Khalifah said: "We have a corps of 550 men trained in civil defense and that is sufficient for the time being. We plan to train more people in this field. We have qualified young officers who have been sent abroad on special training and studying rotations. The administration has obtained new equipment for civil defense, and search and rescue, including cameras that see under rubble. From time to time, the competence at work is tested through the events that take place. A few days ago, a fire started on board a large ship. Its diver reached the heart of the structure, extinguishing the fire and carried out a rescue with high efficiency. The civil defense personnel also work with hotels and banks to stage fire drills and to continuously inspect the facilities there. The administration has requested that all companies working in Bahrain agree to the measures that are necessary for the protection of these institutions."

"In preparation for the opening of the Bahrain-Saudi Arabia bridge," says Colonel Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman, "a large civil defense center has been built halfway across the bridge and a trained civil defense team has been assigned to work at the center. This team has been trained in all rescue operations and in lifting the cars that might, God forbid, fall off the bridge, in a timely manner and with the help of modern equipment."

Lastly, Colonel Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin Rashid mentioned that the government has agreed to build a civil defense school in al-Budayya'. Its construction has been budgeted for. This school will not only train and prepare civil defense personnel, but civil defense training courses will also be offered to policemen and 2-week courses will be offered to civilians who will return annually for only 1 week's worth of training.

SECRETARY GENERAL OF PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT FOR PEACE INTERVIEWED

Jerusalem AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI in Arabic 6 Sep 86 pp 30-31

[Interview with Father Riyah Abu-al-'Asal, secretary general of the Progressive Movement For Peace; date and place not given]

[Text] A decree by Interior Minister Yitzhag Peres denies foreign travel to Father Riyah Abu-al-'Asal, secretary general of the Progressive Movement For Peace, on the pretext that his movements threaten the security of Israel.

In an interview with AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI, father Abu-al-'Asal answered questions about current issues, especially with regards to liaison and meetings between Palestinians and their sole legitimate representative, the PLO.

[Question] Interior Minister Peres is not allowing you to leave the country. Please comment.

[Answer] I consider that that decision is in the first place a political matter meant to direct a blow at the Progressive Movement For Peace and obstruct its efforts. It is therefore a repressive measure with no basis to substantiate the allegation that my travels would pose a threat to the security of Israel. In fact, my travels abroad would have been a fact-finding tour of the Middle East. The basic fact is that the PLO is the legitimate, and sole representative of the Arab Palestinian people. There is no way to reach a permanent and equitable solution in the absence of this basic fact. This view which I have reiterated throughout my world travels, poses no threat to the security of Israel. Those who ignore these established facts represent the real threat to the security of Israel and its people.

[Question] Israeli leaders claim that the Progressive Movement receives financial aid from the PLO. Others, meanwhile, claim that the movement receives funds from the government of the United States.

[Answer] The Progressive Movement For Peace was able in a very short period of time to gain important international status because of the clarity of its news, especially among our brethren the expatriate Arabs and among the champions of peace who work day and night for Palestinian rights on Palestinian soil. This has encouraged other proponents of the Palestinian cause to support this political trend represented by our progressive movement. It is a false allegation that our movement receives funds from suspect sources. All funds received by the Progressive Movement came from social and religious organizations in Europe and the United States. These organizations had contributed previously to similar nationalist movements and societies.

[Question] The government of Israel is after the men of the Progressive Movement. The immunity of Knesset member Muhammad Mi'ari has been limited. Progressive Movement spokesman attorney Kamil al-Zahir is forbidden to leave the country. And now it is your turn. Why all this?

[Answer] It is peculiar that, much as in the case of brother Kamil al-Zahir, the court relied on Israeli intelligence reports without documentation. I am convinced there are no such documents. I would point out that by crying out and alleging that the movement is funded by the PLO, our competitors from the right and the left contributed a great deal to slandering the movement and its men. I would also say that before the Progressive Movement emerged, and even after its victory in the most recent Knesset elections--a victory justifiably described as the most important internal event in the history of the Arab Palestinian minority since 1948--the progressive movement was targeted by the authorities and their supporters on the left and on the right. All of them wanted so much to kill it before and after its birth that the "progressive" movement had to resort to the Supreme Court in order to practice its right to enter the 1984 parliamentary elections. The movement achieved legitimacy through 38,000 voters who gave it their confidence. Yet, the authorities continue to harass the movement till this very day. This takes the form of going after members in all branches to urge them to quit the movement, to interrogate them, or subject them to travel restrictions. However, all these attempts have been unsuccessful because the Progressive Movement has a Palestinian vision and is tied to Palestinian roots. These roots are becoming deeply entrenched. Being chased by Israeli authorities is best proof of its viability and influence on all levels and all areas.

[Question] What do you think of the Ifrane meeting between Peres and King Hasan II? Was that a step towards desired peace?

[Answer] I would like to emphasize that any meeting that circumvents the PLO, the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people, is doomed to failure no matter how good the intentions are. The search for headlines and for alternatives to the PLO is a waste of time and opportunity. The Palestinian people have chosen their representative. Most countries and nations of the world recognize the legitimacy of the election of the PLO by the Palestinian people. What is the point, I ask you, of going to Hasan II or al-Husayn if the answer lies with the PLO? At any rate, this latest publicized meeting has proven again that the rulers of Israel persist in ignoring the facts in the Middle East. They, in fact, deliberately ignore the one element that is capable of making a permanent and just peace. This, in turn, proves that Israeli rulers are not serious in their quest for peace and that they are unable to take a serious step towards providing peace, security, and stability for all the people of the Middle East. Peres came back empty handed and he knew in advance that he would. What could Hasan II have offered him except the Fez resolutions that he signed with his own hand?

[Question] How does the PLO regard the Progressive Movement for Peace?

[Answer] The Organization's leadership described us as "family" when others were described as "allies" at best. The Progressive Movement is a symbol of the awakening of the free Palestinian consciousness that is not ruled by internal or external organizations. This is why the movement, its objectives, and its political stands have all the respect and appreciation of PLO leadership. Meetings between leaders of the PLO and the Progressive Movement in February 1985 and June 1986 emphasize the high regard with which PLO leadership views the Progressive Movement. The movement has taken a very clear position toward this legitimate leadership and its absolute right to represent the Palestinian people. It has also taken a clear position towards futile attempts at creating alternatives to the PLO here and there. This is what differentiates the Progressive Movement from others that fish in murky waters and constantly whisper to those who are near and far allegations about the legitimate leadership represented in the person of brother Abu-'Ammar.

[Question] Would you like to say something to Israeli citizens?

[Answer] The greatest accomplishment of the Palestinian minority in Israel was not due to any party. It was realized thanks to the steadfastness of this segment of our population on its own land and soil despite racial and national persecution, the confiscation of its land, and abrogation of its rights.

The continuation of this steadfastness will have a decisive impact on future Palestinian and Israeli developments. This segment of which we are part has changed not only in quantity but also in quality. It has become impossible to ignore its abilities and impact, not to mention that it is the only segment of our Palestinian population that can practice political action. Such political action might have a great impact on Israel's internal and foreign policies. We could be capable of spectacular accomplishments if we garnered our efforts, strengthened our resolve, and united our forces. The Arabs today represent 18 percent of the country's population. There are enough Arab votes to elect 15 or more Knesset members. These facts require from us more awakening, awareness, and the capacity within us. And in as much as these facts behoove us to close our ranks, they also require us to stop clinging to Zionist parties that have been the cause of our daily suffering since 1948. It is our duty nowadays to identify more with our Palestinian heritage and rise above anything that hurts the free Palestinian image. We must reaffirm our Palestinian identity and our right to total equality as citizens of the nation. We must cling to our land and our right to help achieve our people's right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state on Palestinian soil.

[Question] Two weeks ago the Knesset passed a law forbidding meetings with members of the PLO. Any comment?

[Answer] The oddest thing about this law is its timing. Representatives of several parties in Israel have had more than one meeting with members of the PLO, including the leadership. In the past, or even under the Likud, the Knesset did not resort to such action that outlaws our meetings with our brethren in the diaspora. This is why I am certain that this law is meant as another measure of persecuting our progressive movement in order to strike a

blow against it, weaken its resolve, and limit its action. I also see that law as a blow to democratic values in the country. It is also an attempt to isolate the PLO in order to create a weak alternative. Such actions would induce all progressive and democratic forces in the world in general and in Israel in particular, to condemn this measure and to work ceaselessly for the repeal of this law that prohibits meetings. This way, permanent and just peace-loving forces will be able to provide the opportunity and means for more meetings and more dialogue until the day comes when there will be peace negotiations between the legitimate representatives of both warring parties. We hope that such negotiations would end in reciprocal recognition of each party's legitimate rights and would bring both peoples a haven of safety as both parties sign a peace agreement that guarantees the Palestinian people its right to its own independent state on its national soil side by side with the state of Israel.

12945

CSO: 4404/24

WEST BANK LABOR LEADER DISCUSSES UNION ISSUES

Jerusalem AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI in Arabic 13 Sep 86 p 27

[Interview with Shahhadah al-Minawi, secretary general of the Federation of West Bank Labor Unions; date and place not given]

[Text] A positive phenomenon in the occupied territory is that unions and the labor movement, which began years ago, are emerging as a solid labor and political force that is not easily penetrated or ignored when it comes to matters dealing with the Palestinian people. The labor movement has proved ability to confront conspiracies against Palestinian workers throughout the occupied territories. It has stood in solidarity with the other segments of the Palestinian people as an impregnable barrier to plots against the Palestinian cause. It has supported, forcefully, the convening of the Palestine National Council whose 17th session was held in Amman, and called for national solidarity among all Palestinians of various orientation.

The General Framework of the Labor Movement

Labor unions in the West Bank operate under a general umbrella. This is the General Federation of Labor Unions which is headquartered in Nabulus. The General Federation, which is the legitimate representative of the unions, include all trade and labor unions. In order to better understand the history of the labor movement in the occupied territory, AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI interviewed Mr. Shahhadah al-Minawi, secretary general of labor unions in the West Bank. He answered the questions posed to him as follows.

The History of the Union Movement

[Question] Could you brief us on the history of the labor movement in the occupied territory?

[Answer] The labor movement is an extension of the Palestinian movement before 1948 and an extension of the Arab Society in Palestine. In 1954, the main center for labor unions was established in Amman. Another was created in Nabulus and a third in Jerusalem. A Jordanian law allowing the formation of labor unions was enacted the same year.

[Question] What are the major functions of the federation?

[Answer] Finding solutions to labor problems among the unions and between unions and employers in the occupied territories. Raising the cultural and educational level of the working class in particular and society in general. Locating projects for health services, sports activity, social services etc. The federation also provides consumer markets in order to lighten the economic burden on society in general and on the workers in particular considering that the workers represent 90 percent of the local society.

Union Splits

[Question] There occurred recently several splits within the General Federation. Can you tell us why and give us your comments?

[Answer] The splintering factions are the same unions that left the general organization. They split to form two federations whose number is liable to increase.

The reason for the split was that certain people seek autocratic control and domination of the labor movement and totally reject the democracy of elections. Another reason was that certain contacts with socialist labor unions were made.

[Question] What are the most prominent problems facing the Federation?

[Answer] The major problem is unemployment which is now prevalent among our workers in the occupied territory and which could become critical in the future due to lack of factories and employment opportunities.

Moreover, the authorities interfere in the affairs and activities of the General Federation by banning lectures, meetings, seminars, etc.

[Question] How many unions does your federation encompass and how do you compare to other federations?

[Answer] The legitimate General Federation has 44 labor unions that are registered and meet the Federation's bylaws and qualifying criteria. The federation that split off claims to include 67 unions. The other federation has 40 unions according to its figures. The legitimate General Federation has 44 fully qualified unions plus nine others which were not approved but will gain admission when they legally qualify.

[Question] What is your viewpoint on the impasse between the PLO and Jordan?

[Answer] The relations between Jordan and PLO distinguish between the two peoples. All resolutions by national councils stipulate non-infringement on the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. The most important of these is the right to self-determination and the creation of an Palestinian state represented by the Palestine Liberation Organization. We

don't accept an alternative to the Organization under the leadership of Yasir 'Arafat. Jordan's cessation of political coordination is in a way an abandonment of the commitment to the Organization as the representative of the Palestinian people as recognized by Arab conferences.

[Question] What are the chances of achieving internal national unity?

[Answer] This can be accomplished if there is commitment on the part of everyone. We accept internal unity among unions without conditions or limitations. We welcome any union that wants to become a part of the legitimate General Federation of Labor Unions. We hope to accomplish internal unity as soon as possible.

12945

CSO: 4404/24

FIRST WOMAN IDF GENERAL

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Oct 86 p 2

[Text]

The IDF will get its first woman general on Friday, when the head of the Womens' Corps, Aluf Mishne (colonel) Amira Dotan, is promoted to the rank of Tat-Aluf (brigadier-general). Dotan's promotion will open up the ladder of advancement for other women in the IDF, who until now could attain only the rank of colonel.

Although senior officers have been careful not to criticize the promotion publicly for fear of being accused of "sexism," many in the upper military echelons believe that the promotion was unnecessary. "At a time when unprecedented budget cuts have forced a down-grading of most ranks, and when literally dozens of senior officers are being dismissed from important, but secondary jobs, upgrading the head of the Women's Corps seems an unnecessary extravagance," *The Jerusalem Post* was told by one senior officer yesterday.

Referring to the appointment, Deputy Chief of Staff Dan Shomron said: "I suppose the appointment was made to encourage women in the army or something...Other than that I have no explanation."

/9274

CSO: 4400/40

SETTLEMENT OF SHARHARUT DESCRIBED

Jerusalem ISRAEL SCENE in English No 10, Oct 86 p 10

[Article by Bill Clark]

[Text]

Harei Shaharut – the Mountains of Dawn – loom half a kilometer above the blistering Arava Valley of southern Israel. Stark, steep ranges of gritty Nubian sandstone, they are awe-inspiring and challenging.

The last people to live upon these remote and barren highlands was a primitive Chalcolithic society, more than 5,000 years ago. They were just emerging from the Stone Age, and upon these heights they built a crude stone temple to some unknown and now-forgotten god. Then, they vanished forever. The remains of that temple stood in silent desolation for more than 50 centuries until a generation of pioneers settled upon the Mountains of Dawn.

Today, seven Israeli families inhabit these peaks. Their technology has conquered the hostility of the desert mountains. Pipes and pumps bring water to their village; wires carry electricity and telephone communications. Modern man is succeeding where his ancient forebears failed.

The Shaharut village is a pioneer community in more than one respect. Certainly, it is a vanguard which opens up a new region of Israel for Jewish settlement – and is thus a high priority for the country's settlement interests. But the people of Shaharut are also pioneers in another way: they are the nucleus of an entirely new concept of community organization – the cooperative city.

Israel has a world-wide reputation for devising imaginative and practical systems of community organization. The

kibbutz (communal farm) and the moshav (cooperative farm) are uniquely Israeli institutions, now emulated in many countries. Some urban centers, such as Arad, were planned in detail and its first citizens chosen by a special screening committee, before the first spade of earth was even turned.

Shaharut forges ahead in yet another new direction. Dubi Hellman, chairman of the Eilat Regional Council, says that the Shaharut project is a response to both practical and idealistic necessities. "If we think of Zionism, and the goal of bringing the Jews of the world to Israel, we cannot ignore such a sparsely-settled region as the southern Negev," he says. "But the problem is how to settle the area, and how an immigrant coming on aliya can earn a living and live a normal family life here."

"Jews are urbanites," he says. "You might find a few idealists willing to live in an isolated village, but these are rare people. Most Jews prefer cities and towns. So that's what we have to build."

Traditional urban communities, however, would be extremely difficult to establish in this region. Thus, Hellman believes, there must be a catalyst, a new technique to make urban development possible. And this, he is certain, is the cooperative city.

Just as all the kibbutzim of a region can function cooperatively, integrating their agricultural planning and production schedules for the common good, so an urban community can organize its industries cooperatively, with integrated systems of production and marketing. But unlike the kibbutzim, Hellman says, the cooperative city will be an open industrial


system, rather than a closed agricultural one.

As in the kibbutz, all members of the cooperative city will share equally in the ownership of the means of livelihood, and all important decisions will be made democratically. Administration will rotate to avoid developing a permanent hierarchy, and members of the cooperative city will be required to contribute to support schools and other social necessities.

Unlike the kibbutz, however, the cooperative city will not regulate personal property or income. And there will be greater opportunity for diversity in culture, religion and lifestyle.

The new concept in urban living is already in an active phase, Hellman says, with the first colony actually established – a mere nucleus perhaps, with seven pioneer families. But more families are being screened, a new access road is being laid out and investors are being solicited to back the first industries.

A philosophical Hellman quotes David Ben-Gurion: "Why did God make this (Negev) region so hard to live in? If he had worked just one moment longer, and put a bit of water here, it would be like other parts of the world. But when I think about what lay deeper behind the thinking, there's the thought that perhaps this was a technique for keeping the Land empty for the Jews."

"And so it is," Hellman says. "The southern Negev is empty. Not a soul. Nobody. Jews can come to live here without disputing property rights. The Negev belongs only to those who want it, and those who decide to live here." 

/9274

CSO: 4400/40

STATE OF AGRICULTURE IN GAZA ASSESSED

Jerusalem AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI in Arabic 2 Aug 86 p 26

[Article: "Agriculture in Gaza: A Major Economic Pillar Threatened With Disintegration and Collapse"]

[Text] Agriculture has been the backbone of the economy in the occupied territory since the beginning of 1967. It is considered the mainstay of the population since it represents one third of the national income and employs approximately one half of the Palestinian labor force.

Agriculture in the occupied territory has evolved. New crops have been introduced, such as watermelons, melons, citrus fruits and vegetables as well as mulberries which Gaza is exporting to Europe for the first time. Modern techniques are used in irrigation, plowing, harvesting, and packaging especially after citrus waxing and packaging factories were set up. There are now about seven factories with a capacity for wrapping and packaging the Strip's production in general.

Citrus fruits, olives, grapes, and vegetables have become major crops in the occupied Arab territories. In Gaza, there are approximately 66,000 donums of citrus fruits and 46,000 donums of vegetables as indicated by the following table:

Type of Produce	Area in Donums
Valencia	44,000
Shammuti	13,000
Lemons	4,000
Grapefruit	4,000
Varieties of Mandolina and Clementina	1,000
Vegetables	46,000

There is acreage of fruits and vegetables, especially dates, guavas, tomatoes, cucumbers, etc. in the areas of Bayt Lahya, Dayr al-Balah, al-Nusayrat, al-Shaykh 'Ajlayn, and Khan Yunis. The area planted with vegetables and fruits has grown at the expense of the area planted with citrus fruits because of the latter's exorbitant expenses and taxes imposed on citrus farmers, especially the two percent income tax.

The following table details exports of vegetables and fruits, especially to Jordan and Europe.

Type of Produce	Jordan (tons)	West Bank (tons)	Europe (tons)
Guava	2,000	1,100	---
Dates	400	800	---
Mulberries	14	---	320
Squash	---	20	120
Head Lettuce	---	---	15
Sweet Potatoes	---	8	10
Eggplant	---	5	11.5

The following table shows the general decline in citrus crops compared to previous years. Even so, there is a large quantity of the crops that require constant collaborative effort to develop and improve our agriculture.

Type of Produce	Harvest (1000 tons)	Harvest (1000 tons)
Lemons	13,881	13,548
Valencia	100,000	82,740
Shammuti	39,037	30,501
Grapefruit	11,247	10,211

[Table above does not indicate on what years the comparison was made]

Obstacles facing agriculture include:

1) Taxes on farmers and exporters, especially the two percent income tax levied this year on all farmers. Why does not the Citrus Growers Association play this role and work for abolition of this tax?

2) Exports. All restrictions on exports should be abolished. The export of agricultural produce should be allowed to all Arab and socialist countries and to Europe. Produce should not be restricted solely to the needs of the Israeli market but should be economically independent. A factory should be built to produce fruit juice and package fruit with a view to utilizing export surplus.

3) The expansion of settlements has to be stopped. These settlements so far cover approximately half of the land on the West Bank and the Gaza coasts, especially fertile agricultural land.

4) Water. The level of artesian water has gone down and salinity has increased. Reports indicate that there will be a grave shortage of water in the next few years, especially because of the drought over the past couple of years, as indicated in the following table:

Rain Fall in Millimeters		
Area	1984-85	1985-86
Bayt Hanun	296	181
Bayt Lahya	241.2	225.2
Abu 'Aziz Station	233.4	185.3
Al-Mifraqah	219	171.5
Al-Nusayrat	159	148.5
Dayr al-Balah	178.1	112.5
Khan Yunis	156	192.7
Rafah	199	103.5

This points out the importance of water conservation and of the search for alternate sources. A very strict stand should be taken against all those who attempt monopolistic control of springs and wells.

5) Total care should be exerted to ensure good organization, planning, harvesting, and packaging according to export requirements and specifications.

6) An olive or a citrus tree is a symbol of the identity and existence of this people. A true Arab stand is therefore required to bolster the national economy in the occupied territories which is threatened with extinction, and to absorb all the products of occupied Arab land. The Arab countries absorbed all the produce of occupied territories in 1946. This dropped to only 26 percent in 1973 and further declined to 20 percent in 1977.

There are passive stands such as closing the doors against Palestinian products in certain Arab countries, especially in the Gulf, and such as Jordan's arbitrary economic decisions and the barriers and regulations it imposes at crossings. On 15 June 1986 for instance, Jordanian authorities turned back melon and citrus products from the West Bank and Gaza even though they amounted to some 4,000 tons of citrus fruits and a substantial quantity of melons and watermelons on the pretext that they originated inside the green line.

12945

CSO: 4404/24

ISRAEL

BRIEFS

EXPORTS TO LEBANON DOWN--The export of goods to Lebanon has recently dropped because of an internal conflict in Lebanon and the influence of various local bodies who oppose the import of Israeli goods. Thus, Israeli exports to Lebanon now amount to approximately \$1 million a month. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 21 Oct 86 TA] /9738

CSO: 4400/41

COMMENTARY OF NEXT JORDANIAN ELECTIONS

Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Sep 86 p 5

[Text]

AMMAN — Experimental operations of equipment and facilities of the first stage of the Aqaba Thermal Power Station (ATPS) are continuing and the station is expected to be ready for full operations by early November.

It is expected that the 260-megawatt stage one of the station will be switched on by mid-November, thereby boosting the total power-generating capacity of the Kingdom to 972 megawatts including that of producers other than the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA).

The JD 80 million first stage of the ATPS involves two 130-megawatt steam-run generators supplied by Franco-Tusi of Italy at a cost of JD 28.122 million, boilers designed and supplied by Mitsubishi heavy industries of Japan at JD 20.294 million and switchgear from Brown Boveri of West Germany at JD 2.617 million. The civil works were undertaken by Mitsubishi/Fudo of Japan at a cost of JD 20.045 million while South Korea's Samsung Construction Company built fuel oil storage tanks at a cost of JD 1.28 million.

Financing

The project was financed by various Arab and international funds and agencies — including the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) special fund and the

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development — and loans from Italy, Japan and South Korea, in addition to a direct contribution by the national treasury.

One of the special features of the Aqaba station is that it uses seawater for cooling — meaning about 22 per cent savings in fuel expenses. A purpose-built canal and fibreglass pipelines ferry water from the Red Sea to the station and back. In addition, water from the Qa Disi springs is used for drinking and firefighting purposes.

The ATPS is built on a 587-dunum plot, about 19 kilometres south of Aqaba at 35 metres above mean sea level and one kilometre inland from the sea. It includes three fuel reservoirs each with 427,000 cubic metres capacity — enough for 90 days supply — and two 5,700 cubic metre diesel storage tanks.

The station is linked to the 400-kilovolt (now operating at 132-kv capacity) power grid and is expected to meet Jordan's electricity needs until the year 1990.

Stage two

Along with the step-by-step experimental operations, work is also underway on stage two of the station. Stage two involves two 130-megawatt dual-fired turbines with all accessories. The JEA has announced tentative dates for issuing tenders for stage two. The tenders are split into four parts: turbines, boilers, switchgear and civil works.

The JEA expects that stage two of the ATPS will be commissioned in 1991 and can automatically fill

in the expected increase in demand for power by then. The station is built with provisions for an ultimate plant capacity of 1,540-megawatts, according to the JEA.

At present, the JEA has an installed capacity to produce a total of 601.5 megawatts. The Al Hussein Thermal Power Station at Zarqa, with a capacity of 395 megawatts, is the largest single producing facility of the JEA followed by smaller ones at Marka, Amman South and Karak in addition to one at Aqaba.

The Irbid District Electricity Company and several leading industrial concerns have a total installed capacity of 110.5 megawatts.

Site considerations

The JEA explains that there were four main considerations in choosing the site, slightly over four kilometres from the Jordan-Saudi Arabia border, for the ATPS. The four factors, the JEA says, are:

- availability of seawater for cooling;
- easy access to fuel oil pumped to facilities at Aqaba port;
- the government's drive to provide the south of the Kingdom with power and develop industries there;

- and employment opportunities for the people in the south.

The Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRC) is entrusted with the responsibility of supplying the station with fuel oil — heavy type with a viscosity of 30055 at 50 degrees centigrade — discharged from tankers docking at Aqaba.

AQABA THERMAL POWER STATION OPERATIONAL IN NOVEMBER

Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Sep 86 p 3

[Article by Marwan Muasher]

[Text]

RECENTLY, it was announced that the legal term for the present parliament ends in January of 1988. Thus, barring any unforeseen circumstances, and according to the law stating that elections should be held no later than three months before the end of a parliament's term, we should expect new elections to take place in the Kingdom somewhere between August and October of 1987.

The majority of members in the present parliament have been elected in 1967, almost twenty years ago. Naturally, several conditions have changed since then, including the composition of the electorate body. The new elections, therefore, regardless of the personalities they will bring to parliament, will certainly result in a more representative body than the present one.

The elections in 1987 will be held according to the provisions of the new electoral law, bringing 142 members to parliament, instead of the present number of 60. While the new electoral law leaves some questions in mind, there is little point in reflecting upon them, now that it is already in effect. It appears more worthwhile to make the best out of this new law, and to start working from now towards influencing the composition of the new parliament members.

A quick look at the distribution of districts would show that in

most areas outside of Amman, many traditional candidates will win because of the dominance of one or a few families in such districts. In other words, one can expect that in many areas, candidates will be chosen because of family support, irrespective of their qualifications. One can also argue that such choices are to be expected. If they reflect the will of the people of the district, then so be it. All one can hope for is that families in such districts will choose educated members to run for parliament rather than the powerful, but not too educated, individuals.

Thus while the new law understandably cannot eliminate tribal affiliations in rural areas, it has a better chance of doing so in urban areas, particularly in Amman. Because of the provisions of the new law, requiring people to vote for areas of their residence rather than origin, there are fewer chances of candidates winning in large cities, particularly the capital, because of family support. Because the capital is a conglomeration of people from different city origins, candidates have to offer something more to the electorate than the back-up of family members or friends. It is in such areas where surprises can occur, and where change can be expected.

For the first time since the last elections, a highly educated class

of citizens has emerged with little representation in parliament. This class consists of young professionals eager to share in the decision-making process of their country.

That has not so far happened is a result of several factors, one of which is a general disease that has swept the country in general and the educated in particular: namely apathy.

The young educated generation has been faced with so many frustrations that it has practically given up all efforts at contributing to public service and has concentrated instead on looking after its own good.

This is indeed most dangerous, because the class that can contribute most to the modernisation of our institutions is the one largely alienated from this process. The huge efforts, both timewise and moneywise, spent on the education of Jordanians are not being properly rewarded, with gains from such education being scattered and largely dissipated.

It is therefore of utmost importance to bring together these efforts and direct them towards contributing to public affairs. One way of doing this is through electing individuals that represent this class and can reflect its views in parliament.

It is futile, however, to wait or expect the educated of this country to make a move out of the present vacuum. They are largely disorganised, or too apathetic about public affairs. It is thus left for the few enthusiastic men and women of this new generation to convince their peers that it is time to break out of their shells and

start caring more for their country.

The new law is not all that helpful in such a matter. Political organisations are still forbidden. Campaigning is restricted. But that does not mean the battle is lost.

There is still a lot that one can do through enthusiasm and dedication. The first thing to do is to convince people that their votes can count, and that if they agree on candidates that can represent them, that they have the numbers necessary to elect these candidates.

Such a problem will take a long time, which is why this new generation has to start thinking and working seriously from now for 1988, within the framework of the new law. There are ten candidates to be elected representing the city of Amman alone. A lot can be done to influence the composition of these ten candidates. One can start by defining the set of principles, demands and obligations that this generation wants to voice or abide by. Next comes the candidates that can either be chosen by this group, or that come closest to voicing its concerns. Then, a concentrated, if up-hill, education campaign should be started to gather support for the candidates chosen.

The one important idea in which this generation has to believe is that its voice should count, that it can count. An effort has to be started now if we are seriously committed to this country. Otherwise, we have only ourselves to blame for any composition parliamentary elections might produce that many of us would not like.

PHOSPHATE EXPORT FIGURES ON RISE

Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Sep 86 p 3

[Text]

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan has led the world in exporting phosphates during the first half of 1986, according to Mr. Makram Zureikat, director of the sales department at the Jordan Phosphates Mines Company (JPMC).

He said that Jordan exported 2.653 million tonnes of the mineral in the first half of this year, compared with 1.9 million tonnes in the same period of last year, an increase of 37.3 per cent.

Mr. Zureikat said that in the first half of this year, Algeria increased its phosphate exports by 21 per cent, Tunisia by 16.9 per cent, Senegal by 7.3 per cent and the rest of the world's phosphate exporters registered an increase of

2.2 per cent while the United States' exports dropped by six per cent and Moroccan exports of the rock went down by 9.8 per cent.

According to a JPMC spokesman, the Shidieh mine will start production in the first half of 1988 and is expected to produce one million tonne of phosphates a year.

The spokesman said that the Wadi Al Abiad and Al Hassa mines in southern Jordan will together produce some 33 million tonnes of phosphates during the current five-year development plan.

The bulk of the phosphates are exported through the Red Sea port of Aqaba.

/9274

CSO: 4400/39

BRIEFS

CALL FOR MUSLIM UNITY--His Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah yesterday met members of the African Islamic Centre secretaries council who are holding their 25th session in Kuwait. The meeting was attended by the Justice Minister and acting Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister, Dhari Al Othman, and the chairman of the session, the ministry's undersecretary, Mohammed Nasser Al Hamdan. After the meeting, Al Hamdan told Al Seyassah newspaper that Sheikh Saad expressed appreciation and understanding of the noble duty of the centre. Sheikh Saad said Kuwait was interested in helping and backing Islamic centres and establishments in all parts of the world and would continue to do so. He called on all Muslims to unite their efforts and to discard causes of disunity and dispute. Sheikh Saad told the members that he was ready to hear their proposals and suggestions, particularly about Islamic work. He praised the workers at the centre in particular, and other workers in the field of Islamic activity. Al Hamdan said that the members were very pleased and optimistic after the meeting. The assistant secretary-general of the Islamic World Association, Amin Al Attas, said that the concern of the Crown Prince and Prime Minister in the affairs of Muslims and particularly in Islamic activities, was well known. He added that Kuwait and Saudi Arabia were making great efforts to help Muslims throughout the world. The members of the Council later paid a visit to the Grand State Mosque and praised its Islamic architecture. [Text] [Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 7 Oct 86 p 5] /9274

JOINT VENTURE WITH CHINA--A joint project for the manufacturing of fertilisers has been launched under the main sponsorship of China and participation of Kuwait and Tunisia. A spokesman for the Chinese Chemical Industry Ministry said that China has obtained a \$97 million loan from the World Bank to fund the project. He added that China had spent \$750 million over the past five years in its development of its chemical industry and on the exploitation of natural resources to meet its requirements. The new joint project will be able to manufacture 480,000 tons of ammonia annually by 1988. [Text] [Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 8 Oct 86 p 10] /9274

KUWAIT PROMOTES ISLAMIC UNITY--Moscow, 12 Oct (Kuna)--Kuwait's Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Khalid Al Jassar today said that the Iraq-Iran war will top the agenda of the fifth Islamic Summit when it convenes in Kuwait next January. He told the Kuwait News Agency that the six-year-old war "will be given priority at discussions as it has destroyed economies and human power of both countries." Jassar said that problems of concern to the Muslim world, such as

the Palestinian cause and the conflict in Sudan "will be discussed in a frank and extensive manner." The summit is due to be held from January 26 to 28. On the recent meetings of the International Islamic Conference on the "Muslim struggle for peace" in the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan, Jassar said it demonstrated adherence of Muslims to principles of peace for all nations. He asserted Kuwait's determination to consolidate Islamic solidarity and to extend the hand of friendship to all Muslims around the world. The minister praised the relations between Kuwait and the Soviet Union, and denounced the Western anti-Arab media campaigns "which implicate Arabs and Muslims in terrorist acts." Giving his impression of his tour of some historical Islamic cities in the Soviet Union, such as Baco, Tashkent and Samarkand, Al Jassar said these cities had an Islamic style and their citizens were Muslims who followed Islamic ways just like those in other countries. He said there were only a few mosques. [Text] [Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 13 Oct 86 p 4] /9274

CSO: 4400/35

LEADERS STATE PREREQUISITES FOR SETTLEMENT

Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 1 Sep 86 pp 4, 9

[Article: "Massive Central Rally by Amal on Eighth Anniversary of al-Sadr's Disappearance; Birri: We Engage in Dialogue on Basis of Tripartite Agreement; Spirit of Agreement Is Summed up in Six Points; Junblatt Wor: We want Fundamental National Solution Adhering to Spirit of Tripartite Agreement; Karami's Word: If We cannot Achieve Fundamental Political Solution, Let us Establish Long Truce; Qablan: For Resolution 425 and for Expanding Security Plan; Abu Nadir: We Want To Open Channels with Damascus, Gate of Arabdom"]

[Excerpts] Nabih Birri, Amal Movement chairman and the minister of state for southern affairs and for justice and resources, asserted that he will attend the Ministerial Dialogue Council tomorrow, Tuesday, but on the basis of the tripartite agreement and on the basis of the spirit of this agreement. He summed up the spirit of the agreement in six points: rejecting peace agreement, negotiations, and arrangements with Israel, maintaining the special relationship with Syria, rejecting all forms of partitioning Lebanon, whatever they are, abolishing political sectarianism, rebuilding the army on clear national bases, reinstating the evacuees, and improving the economic situation. He said that all these bannerlines are an indivisible whole, adding: If there is good will, we are prepared to begin implementation. The clamor that Amal obstructs the solution will serve no good purpose.

Birri also declared his adherence to Resolution 425, expressing the belief that it does not abolish the truce agreement which maintains the state of war between Israel and us. He also expressed the belief that the resolution does not mean establishing security arrangements with Israel.

Amal Movement held a central speech rally at 10:00 yesterday in the courtyard of the former Italian field hospital, across al-'Uwayni mansion on the airport road, on the occasion of the eighth anniversary of the concealment of Musa al-Sadr and his colleagues Shaykh Muhammad Ya'qub and journalist 'Abbas Badr-al-Din. Malik Salam, chairman of the Development and Reconstruction Board, addressed the rally in the name of Prime Minister Rashid Karami, and Fu'ad Salman addressed it in the name of Minister Walid Junblatt. Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Qablan, supreme Ja'fari mufti, and Bishop Khalil Abu Nadir, pastor of the Beirut Maronite Parish, also addressed the rally.

Tens of thousands of citizens, estimated by a leadership source in Amal at 200,000-250,000 citizens, from the various parts of the south, al-Biqa', and Mount Lebanon participated in the rally. The courtyard could not hold them and they spread over an area of 200 meters of the airport road and over the adjacent sand dunes and rooftops.

Attending the rally were a number of clergymen, Colonel Lutfi Jabir and a delegation of high-ranking officers of the Lebanese army, Major General 'Uthman, who is the general director of the internal security forces, high-ranking internal security officers, a delegation of Syrian observers, ex-Minister Marwan Hamadah, Deputy Husayn Mansur, Deputy Zhir al-Khatib, 'Abd-al-Amir 'Abbas on behalf of the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party, Akram Shuhayb and Fu'ad Salman on behalf of the Progressive Socialist Party, Sa'dallah Mazra'ani and George Batal on behalf of the Lebanese Communist Party, Dr Marwan Faris on behalf of the Syrian National Social Party, Brigadier General Mustafa Nasir, who is director of the National Security Agency, Husayn Qablah, who is acting governor of al-Nabatiyah, the Cuban ambassador to Lebanon, the DPRK ambassador, the charge d'affaires of the PRC Embassy, a delegation of the Iranian Embassy, which is headed by Mr Rahmati, a number of political, social union, and popular organization leaders, and the members of Amal's Political Bureau and Executive Committee and its district and branch officers.

Hundreds of elements of the Islamic Message Scouts and of its female guides and cubs staged marches in various parts of the suburb and then gathered at the rally site.

Abu Nadir

Bishop Khalil Abu Nadir, pastor of the Beirut Maronite Parish, delivered the following address:

My address is not political. It emanates from the spirit of the great absentee, our Imam Musa al-Sadr, may God bring him back to us. My address is against politics and the politicians who have torn this homeland apart. When the homeland regains its health, and it will regain it and we will know freedom from sorrow after the calamity, the people will be singing something other than the praises of the politicians. Harm may perhaps befall me for what I am saying. No, because my word is not political and it will not shock the audience, not even the politicians and the warlords among them. It will not shock them, not even when I tell the truth because I tell it with love and responsibility. I tell it with love for them and I (want them to hear it responsibly).

We do not want shackles on our independence and our sovereignty by anybody.

We don't want the state's facilities, ports, security, and legitimacy to be pounced upon.

We reject the militias and the military organizations here and there.

Consequently, we want a single and capable army controlling every single piece of light or heavy weapons. They say it is a factional army, but we want it a national army for all of Lebanon and for Lebanon's security and borders. There can be no homeland without an army and a flag. We want the evacuees, whoever they are, to return immediately and to be compensated.

We seriously want to open the channels with Damascus, the number-one neighbor and the gate of Arabdom, with the decision-making capitals, and with every friendly country.

We want the other countries to abide by Resolution 425 because it reaffirms our sovereignty at the international level and we want this resolution to be implemented by effective and more widely deployed international forces.

Finally, they sought in Lausanne a "national unity government" and they ended up with disagreement, division, partition, sectarianism, and greater death and devastation. Rather, it has turned into a Lebanese Tower of Babylon.

Finally, we are the silent people. In the name of the silent people and with the spirit of the great absent imam I speak. We will have a revolutionary movement of a new kind in every city, village, and home in Lebanon. Awake, O Lebanese, from your slumber. O Christians and Muslims, the two wings of Lebanon, cheer for peace and love with non-violence, with a weakness that turns into strength and with a will that defeats oppression, hatred, selfishness, weapons, and death. Love is stronger than death.

Karami's Word

Malik Salam, chairman of the Development and Reconstruction Board, then delivered an address in the name of Prime Minister Rashid Karami, saying:

In historic moments, great men are missed. In Lebanon, our people miss bitterly today the historic leadership of Imam Musa al-Sadr, the absent imam, may God end his absence.

Today, we recall the imam's path and his conviction that the Lebanese crisis can only be solved with dialogue--a vigilant dialogue between parties that want to move from the battle of guns to the battle of ideas, from a bloody dialogue that has destroyed many of the country's mainstays and killed many of its sons to a democratic dialogue that restores what has been severed and rebuilds what has been destroyed. Oh, how badly we need to end the cycle of violence and destruction and to restore the procession of life and construction!

A fruitful dialogue is what leads to rebuilding the Lebanon of justice and equality--a Lebanon of political and social justice free of sectarian privileges and social injustice. Rebuilding the country must start with abolishing political sectarianism, which has been the main source of Lebanon's recurrent catastrophes and crises, with establishing a modern democratic

state in which the citizens are equal before the law in rights and duties, and with achieving a political system in which the executive, legislative, and judicial authorities are balanced and in which powers are balanced with responsibilities. Rebuilding the country must emanate from a comprehensive and fair development in which the underprivileged areas get their share so as to catch up with the other parts of the country. As it is not permissible for one citizen to have a privilege over another, except by his capability and not his sectarian identity, it is also not permissible for an area to be privileged over other areas, except by its real needs and not by the sectarian or denominational affiliation of its inhabitants.

Lebanon's Arab affiliation and identity must not be the subject of debate in any future dialogue now that they have been settled in previous dialogues. The gate to Lebanon's Arabism is Damascus. A constructive role by Syria in bringing about a successful political solution and in establishing real security for the Lebanese people is a demand that cannot be ceded because this role is sorely needed. Arab affiliation means realizing clearly and without ambiguity that the enemy is Israel, whose army is occupying dear land in South Lebanon, having already occupied Palestine and its beloved Jerusalem.

Lebanon's Arabism means adoption of the heroic resistance in the south without any reservations and by all the Lebanese and means supporting this resistance with all the available capabilities to liberate the entire south from the Israeli occupation and to regain the Arab dignity. This resistance has restored to the Arabs their dignity and has offered the true model of martyrdom, the most sublime form of sacrifice. Is there any sacrifice more sublime than the unstinting sacrifice of life and blood?

Junblatt's Word

Fu'ad Salman delivered an address in the name of Minister Walid Junblatt, saying: You are not absent nor removed, O imam. No force in the world can remove the men capable of changing the face of history from rewriting their people's and nation's history. How can you be absent or removed when the faithful masses from the coast, the mountain, al-Biq'a', the north, and the south rally behind you. You are in the minds and the hearts. You are in the grips of the fighting youth, in the hearts of Amal and of the Progressive Socialist Party, and in the rifles of the national resistance.

Israel continues to be present in the south. The imam said that Israel is an absolute evil and that dealing with Israel is a sin. Yes, Israel is an absolute evil. This evil has intensified and Israel's agents have become so arrogant that its evil has reached us. But on the inspiration of your guidance, we in Amal, in the Progressive Party, in the national movement, and in the Islamic resistance have fought and defeated Israel. We continue to fight and we will not stop until we evacuate Israel from the south finally. The beginning was in the south and the end of the occupation and of the plot against Lebanon will be in the south.

O imam and master, you said weapons are the ornaments of men, not when used for aggression against others but when used in self-defense and to defend the country, Arabism, and the south against Israel. We have learned from you and have carried arms, the ornaments of men.

Walid Junblatt, the party chairman, said that we go to the national dialog without prior conditions, positions, or complexes. But we go carrying our arms. Does not this mean that weapons are the ornaments of men?

O imam, you were a pioneer in your call for resistance without sectarianism or denominationalism. You wanted to take Islam to its original sources. You were a revolution defending the rights of the oppressed. Isn't it for this purpose that Islam came against the tyrants of Quraysh and for the dispossessed and the poor? You restored to religion its commitment to the people's causes and restored to people their commitment to the heart and spirit of religion as something sublime that rises above rancor and as a ladder to heaven which the faithful climb to meet their Maker, pleased and blessed.

Speaking of the dialog issue, Salman said: Many ask us to end the war. More than anybody else, we want to end the war because we have paid its cost with a lot of dear blood. But the war will end when we are recognized as citizens like the others, when every dispossessed is given his right, and when Lebanon's Arabism is truly entrenched. The war will end when all, led by the army, proceed to liberate the south. The war will end when there is no more discrimination between one Lebanese and another and when one belongs to the country and not to the sect that divides the country. We are not war lovers. We have fought in defense of the country, of our dignity and Arabism, and of Imam al-Sadr's and Kamal Junblatt's ideas. We have fought in Mount Lebanon and in the suburb in response to the ferocious onslaught. We have eliminated the domination and oppression which controlled us and we are now free in our decision-making and our policies.

We are prepared to end the war, if it is possible to end it. We are going to the dialog with open hearts and without complexes. But the dialog must produce a fundamental solution to the crisis. We will accept no solution, peace, or concord at the expense of the blood we have paid. We want a national solution that adheres to the spirit of the tripartite agreement and that is committed to the national demands, to amending the constitution, to giving the majority its right, and to abolishing political sectarianism and that is committed to Syria, which supports us in the face of Zionism.

Tarrad's Word

Shaykh Hasan Tarrad delivered an address in which he spoke about the pilgrimage rites and about the role of the venerable Mecca. He said: There are two Meccas to which the Muslims make their pilgrimage. The new Mecca is the struggling south and its pilgrims are the steadfast strugglers who have performed the holy jihad and applied pilgrimage duty. This is better than the ordinary conventional pilgrimage.

He underlined the legitimacy of the struggle, pointing out the martyrs the Islamic resistance has offered as sacrifices of redemption. He added: The pilgrims return to meet here and to renew the pledge to the great Imam Khomeyni and the great Musa al-Sadr. The danger which threatened the muslims is again threatening them in Lebanon. Khomeyni and al-Sadr are tantamount to another Muhammad and another 'Ali defending the Muslims' dignity.

Tarrad further added: There are two objectives that need Khomeyni's and al-Sadr's presence, namely confronting Israel and uniting the Muslims. These two heroes have adopted the message, have fused with this message and with Islam, and have embodied them in life. Our most important duty is to unite the ranks on the basis of Islam and to make Islam the judge in every dispute. We must not dispute over the veneer and forget the essence. We must tackle any dispute with the guidance of the venerable Koran.

The dispute over Resolution 425 has been intensifying and escalating. If this resolution is defined by this number, then God has made a thousand and one resolutions. We must not forget the divine resolutions and drown in the earthly resolutions. Let the wise meet and hold a dialog until they reach a resolution with a cool mind and a calm nerve. The nation's sons must follow the leaders' steps. Why is disagreement spreading, why this chaos and why this enthusiasm? Why don't we get enthusiastic for God's resolutions and why do we get enthusiastic for earthly resolutions? Listen to God's resolution, lest you dispute and fail?

Qablan's Word

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Qablan, the supreme Ja'fari mufti, delivered an address in which he said:

On this day, the eyes and the heads turn and the people listen attentively to what the speakers say, expecting of them new details and information shedding light on this issue.

Jufti Qablan attacked Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi strongly and quoted al-Qadhafi as telling one of the people's congresses that "if Musa al-Sadr returns 70 times, I will kill him."

Qablan added: Death is right and it is God's law to his creatures. But it is a sign of the bad and miserable times that the nation's destiny is controlled by pseudo-men. We are living the day of conquest, not the conquest of Mecca but of the south's Khaybar, the Khaybar of Jews. Therefore, we must understand and must make others understand that we will not remain silent on this issue of al-Sadr's disappearance. I urge the national force, I urge Syria, and I urge Algeria to exert efforts to uncover this issue. We are living neither in gloomy darkness, as some say, nor in light. We don't know the dimensions of this issue. If there are those who know the truth, then let them give us proof and let them tell us that Musa al-Sadr has met his end so that we may be relieved from this darkness.

There are those who wager that Amal Movement has ended. I say that Amal Movement will grow and become more active and, like a mountain of snow, purer. I tell you that Amal Movement will extend abroad. It will not be confined to Lebanon. Amal Movement is for the dispossessed, for the Christians, for the Muslims, and for the oppressed. Imam Musa al-Sadr founded Amal Movement not that it may serve the Shi'ite sect but that the Shi'ite sect may serve the people. We fight privileges, domination, and oppression. Is it permissible that we oppress others? Do we or does our religion accept that we attack others? No. He who loves us should, as Imam 'Ali said, prepare for poverty, meaning no jubbah [a rather rich flowing outer garment], no cars, no motorcades, and no central forces.

There is a tribal wave, tribal liquidation, and tribal action. Amal Movement was founded to strike at this tribal mentality. We refuse the taking of revenge on the innocent. We tell the tribes that took the oath of the "75,000": Abide by your oath and covenant. Don't let the hour of heedlessness control you. Do not be arrogant and have mercy and compassion.

We have been recently faced with the Resolution 425 wave and God's curses have been heaped on those who adhere to it. One of them has expressed the religious legal opinion that whoever advocates Resolution 425 is a Jew. I am a Jew, then. I support Resolution 425. They have characterized me one time as a supreme Maronite mufti and another time as a supreme Jewish mufti. But from now on, I demand that we erase the tale of 425. This is sedition. From 1978 until now, nobody has said anything about Resolution 425. We say: May God forgive them and give them strength and may He lead us and them to the right path. We must make this day the end of Resolution 425. We don't want to say a lot about it. One feels ashamed when one reads every day many pages of newspapers about it. It is as if the papers have nothing other than us, Hizbullah and Amal Movement, to busy themselves with. Aren't there others? Aren't there catastrophes and problems? We are not the enemies of Hizbullah. We are God's party. We are Amal Movement.

Birri's Word

The rally was concluded with the following address by Minister Nabih Birri:

Master and leader imam,

The hereafter holds the world with keys of which you are the strongest and with men of whom you are the most brilliant. The world leans on the hereafter (through pillars of which you are the firmest). You turned politics into piety, the future in a prophecy, and Moses' staff into resistance which you planted in the south as one plants old, dry sticks and this resistance has blossomed into the miracle age of the Arabs and the Muslims.

We read in AL-NAHAR of 14 August 1986: Libya has lauded the union with Morocco (this was in the wake of the Yefrin meeting). Yesterday, we read that Morocco, and what a patriotic Morocco, terminated this union.

The Libyan regime's graph became obvious when it kidnapped Imam al-Sadr and his two brothers, His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Ya'qub and 'Abbas Badr-al-Din. When the regime kidnapped Imam al-Sadr, it was aware that the imam had founded the Lebanese Resistance Regiments--Amal--to fight Israel. It was also aware that the imam was the foreign minister of the Islamic revolution in Iran, led by the great Imam Khomeyni. So, in whose interest was the kidnapping staged? Was it in Iran's interest? Was it to serve an interest opposed to Iran and the Islamic revolution or to serve Israel's interest?

The truth is that it was in Israel's interest and the interest of the shah's Iran. The imam was the first to voice the religious legal opinion concerning the absolute evil and saying that "dealing with Israel is a sin" and that "Jerusalem's honor refuses to be liberated except with the hands of the faithful." He was the first to speak of unity with the Palestinians and of unity with the Arabs, beginning with the sisterly Syria. Thus, 31 August came to render Israel a major service and to constitute a vast deposit added to Israel's assets and to the account of the capitulationists and of those allied with Israel.

The crawling Arab rulers were not aware of the savings the imam had accumulated before he was kidnapped. This is the other side of 31 August. I mean by the savings the resistance in the south. This resistance has created new equations, not only in the Arab and Middle East world alone but also in all parts of the world. This resistance has turned into a difficult figure on which all the plots and conspiracies hatched against the oppressed Third World peoples are smashed. This is the resistance which has been mounted even with house furniture, with boiling oil, and with the naked body. Though it started in Khaldah, the imam's town, the resistance expanded to Beirut, the suburbs, Sidon, and all the southern villages and has brought the liberation up to the border strip. Today, this resistance is engulfed in an international legitimacy which nobody can deny. I agree with the words of his Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Qablan. But, sir, in view of this session, what we hear about Resolution 425 and about the UNIFIL is surprising and amazing. Without any emotion, with a cool mind, and with utter objectivity, we tell all our brother strugglers in Hizbullah, in the Islamic resistance, in the national resistance, and, first of all, in the Lebanese Resistance Regiments--Amal Movement, we tell them, and God be our witness that we are concerned with all of them and, without any exception, the following on this issue:

1. Israel has declared repeatedly that it does not plan to withdraw from the south, unless in accordance with security arrangements. Some say or cite the pretext that Resolution 425 provides these security arrangements. If so, then why hasn't Israel withdrawn? Why hasn't Israel approved Resolution 425 as long as it guarantees security arrangements, as some people allege?

2. Resolution 425 does not deal with the Palestinian soil or with Jerusalem's future. It pertains to Lebanon solely. It is a phased resolution that does not terminate the truce agreement. This agreement maintains the state of war between Israel and us. Consequently, it does not prevent the holy war we all want.

3. Numerous Arab borders with Israel and even several parts of Lebanon are not affected by Resolution 425 or something similar. Yet military and struggle action against Israel from these orders is halted. Meanwhile, this action continues to exist in the UNIFIL zone and in the zone covered by Resolution 425. Thus, the situation is better where Resolution 425 is present than where it is not.

4. Israel rejects Resolution 425 which was, to start with, adopted by the Security Council without Israel's presence and rejects the UNIFIL. Rather, Israel has ridiculed these forces on several occasions. So why should we adopt the enemy's argument as if it serves our interest, even though it is in the enemy's interest?

5. This resolution has been in existence since 1978. Why have they awakened to it now? When the south's security was in Abu 'Ammar's hand, especially from 1978-82, nothing was said about the resolution and no attacks were staged against the UNIFIL. Have we now become suspect because security is in the hands of Amal and of the south's inhabitants? Or does the problem arise from the fact that we have put an end to the dirty war between us and the Palestinian brothers in the suburb and in West Beirut, thanks to the security plan, to the instructions of brother President Hafiz al-Asad, and to the assistance of our Syrian brothers? The battle and the plot, assuming a new character and carrying the banner of Resolution 425 and of the south's security, have now been moved to the south. Brothers and gentlemen ulema, you who are the prophet's heirs, is what is required that we get exiled and evicted and that 400,000 southerners, of whom 300,000 are Muslims, be evicted to God knows where in order that they may believe that we are patriots and Muslims?

6. With the presence of Resolution 425, we are not fighting under the umbrella of legitimacy.

7. Imam al-Sadr, knowing Israel's ambitions in the south, approved this resolution and even worked for its adoption. Are we better aware of the Shari'a than the imam himself?

8. The presence of UNIFIL creates a psychological state that helps the south's inhabitants to stay in the south. Consequently, this stay provides one of the most important elements of strengthening the resistance and its free movement. The UNIFIL departure would lead to eviction. So why should we work to weaken the resistance with such projection? Yes, we will weaken the resistance if we abolish Resolution 425.

9. Last but not least, the decision on UNIFIL's continued presence is in the hands of Lebanon and Lebanon can demand its withdrawal any time it wishes. This is firmly stated in the text of the resolution itself. This means that UNIFIL's stay is renewed on demand, not automatically. When an Arab and Islamic decision is made on liberation, there will be nothing easier than to demand UNIFIL's withdrawal. Let whoever wishes to continue the jihad, and we are among them, rest assured. We are assured.

The resistance in the south is a part of the people and Resolution 425 is its international robe. What I fear most is that those who are behind this propaganda do not want Resolution 425 but want the B.M. 725. [presumably meaning B.M.W. 725, a German luxury car].

The resistance has two rifles: A rifle raised in the enemy's face and a rifle raised in the United Nations. We do not wave the olive branch. We raise two rifles: A rifle in the south against the enemy and a rifle in the United Nations. It is a sin, a great sin, to cast aside one of the two rifles before full liberation. To make the story simple, if the resistance fighter in the south is the bright student of that land, then the international cover is the certificate he carries to all universities in the world. What interest would it serve for a student to give up his certificate!

As for the internal affair and for the so-called dialog, we stress that we will attend the Ministerial Council on the basis of the dictates and spirit of the tripartite agreement. Lest they kill the agreement's spirit while invoking it, let us sum up to them this spirit as we see it. This agreement's spirit is as follows:

First, no peace treaty, no negotiations, no relations, and no arrangements with Israel or with Lahd. Israel must withdraw from Lebanon without restriction or condition. Camille Sham'un should be ashamed, should respect his old age, and should stand openly against Lahd. Enough support for Lahd. We are aware of their ways.

Second, Lebanon is an Arab country. This reality must undoubtedly be embodied in distinguished, special, and fraternal relations with the sisterly Syria.

Third, Lebanon is a single country united with its people, institutions, and territories. No federalism, confederationism, cantons, decentralized development or security, plurality, nor anything similar is acceptable.

Fourth, the sectarian system has fallen after having proven that it and catastrophe are twins. Consequently, Lebanon's system must be founded on the abolition of political sectarianism. In the interim period, the cabinet must control all the decisions and decrees, even the ordinary ones.

Fifth, the army, this stick with which they always herd their sheep, must be rebuilt. The army must be rebuilt on clear national bases that make clear its tendency to liberate the south and to give full support to the national resistance.

Sixth, implementation of the provisional laws concerning the return of all the evacuees must be expedited. Al-Nab'ah, Burj Hammud, al-Maslakh, Batshay, al-Ghawarinah Quarter, al-Kikwanah, Sibniyah, and al-Damur must not be forgotten. Security must be established and services must be provided expeditiously, economic aid must be channeled to the south, attention must be devoted to the economic situation and to the treasury's position, and the Lebanese currency must be strengthened vis-a-vis the other currencies.

This is the spirit and these are the general bannerlines of the tripartite agreement. We will accept no discrimination between one Lebanese and another. We have had enough of your exploitation. Exploitation and independence do not agree. You have exploited us from 1943 until 1986, through the Palestine catastrophe of 1948, and the kidnapping of Imam Musa al-Sadr and through the 1982 Israeli occupation of Lebanon. Enough.

8494/12624

CSO; 4404/6

MASSIVE DRIVE TO EMPLOY NATIONALS IN PRIVATE SECTOR

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 5 Oct 86 p 4

[Text]

THE government of Qatar has started a drive to get the country's private sector employ more nationals.

A committee has been formed for the purpose, and last week government officials also had a meeting with several private sector chiefs.

The relevant committee is headed by Minister for Finance and Petroleum Affairs Shaikh Abdulaziz bin Khalifa Al Thani, who has ordered a definite plan to be drawn up to place Qatari graduates in suitable jobs and to provide them with incentives, training and supervision. The heads of private sector companies were believed to have promised total cooperation.

The government is keen on ensuring that graduates passing out of Qatar University and from abroad are found suitable jobs. It is estimated that some 4,556 persons have graduated so far from the university. Currently, the university has a strength of about 5,200. A large number of nationals branch out into the armed and police forces soon after passing out of school, and a substantial number prefer to go into family businesses. Even so, government is aware that jobs will have to be created fast for the new generation of educated Qataris.

Government has already set an example in this direction. The number of expatriate staff in government fell by 2.3 per cent in the year ending March, 1986, with the strength of Qataris increasing exactly by the same percentage. The Arab staff also increased by 3.1 per cent, according to official figures.

Expatriate staff had decreased from 7,314 at the end of March,

1985, to 7,149 by March, 1986. During the same period, Qatari staff increased from 13,318 to 13,621 (45.8 per cent of the total of government employees) and Arab, from 8,697 to 8,964.

Meanwhile, the personnel department at the Ministry of Finance and Petroleum Affairs has directed all ministries to reduce staff by between 10 and 15 per cent during the current year. At least 3,300 expatriates in government are to be replaced by Qataris during the current year.

The government's concern about placing Qatari graduates in the private sector can be appreciated from the fact that there are only 1,812 Qataris in a work force of 67,758 in this sector. Figures for the private sector are based on an annual report published by the Central Statistical Organisation in July, 1985, mentioning figures until the end of 1984.

The number of Qataris in the 'mixed sector' is still less. The Statistical Organisation obviously refers to companies in which government has a share. This mixed sector employs 3,916 people, of whom only 387 are Qataris and 848, Arabs. Non-Arabs formed the bulk of 2,681 at the end of 1984.

Arabs total 10,239 in the private work force of 67,758. Non-Arabs total 55,703. The Qatar General Petroleum Corporation (QGPC) is the largest employer in the mixed sector, with 1,617 employees, of whom 274 are Qataris, 494 Arabs and 849 non-Arabs. The Ministry of education is the biggest among the government employers, with a staff of 9,062, of whom 3,249 are women. There are more Qatari women (2,476) in the Education Ministry than men (1,168).

The Education Ministry is currently flooded with applications from Qatari women who have graduated recently. There are some 500 such applications pending with the ministry. It plans to convert 80 of the government primary schools into model schools, which will create jobs for the women applicants.

The problem that the Education Ministry is facing is that most of the Qatari women graduates qualify in history, religion, geography and philosophy. There can only be a limited number of posts in these disciplines, no matter how many new jobs are created. In a way the problem also affects the private sector, which needs qualified personnel in specific areas.

The Qatar University has been trying to diversify its courses to suit the needs of society. For instance, some 48 students have qualified as engineers so far. The engineering faculty has seats for 40 Qataris every year, but must solve the problem of a high number of dropouts.

The Ministry of Electricity and Water, which has reportedly shed a large number of staff in the last two years, had 6,421 employees by the end of 1984.

Hamad General Hospital has 3,245 employees, about half of them women.

Professionals and technicians form the largest group among government employees, accounting

for 11,508, closely followed by production workers and labourers, 10,979. Most government employees have put in between five and nine years of service.

Indians constitute the largest group among foreign employees in government at 2,690. Next are Pakistanis with 2,107. Bangladeshis also form a substantial group, with 1,195 men. There are 887 Iranian men and 33 women.

Egyptians form the largest group among Arab employees, with 3,052 men and 963 women. Palestinians come next with 1,354 men and 418 women.

Some 1,812 posts remain vacant in government, presumably because of the absence of Qatari employees to fill them. The total increase in government employee strength between March 1985, and March 1986, was only 1.38 per cent, indicating that ministries are cautious in expanding staff.

★ ★ ★ ★

ELEVEN Qatari graduates received city and guilds basic engineering certificates from the Vocational Training Centre last week after successfully completing a 24-month training course. They were trained in the theory and practice of general electricity, electrical welding and mathematics. They were also taught English.

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CSO: 4400/42

PROPOSAL FOR SPECIAL WELLS UNDER CONSIDERATION

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 9 Oct 86 p 4

[Text]

DOHA—Department of Agriculture and Water Research has proposed a project to dig 70 special wells that will recharge the fast depleting underground water reservoirs, Mohammed Al Faihani, the Director said. Rain water was now going waste owing to evaporation, but the special wells, lined with different sizes of rocks, industrial filters and pipes would allow this water to flow to the natural store of water underground.

Mr Faihani said the 850 farms in the country utilising groundwater for irrigation through bore wells were depleting the natural reservoirs. He estimated that some 99.7 million cubic metres (mcm) of water was being utilised every year, according to figures for 1985-86. But replenishment through rain, according to a 15-year study made from 1971-86, was only between 30 and 35 mcm.

Three areas selected

Hence the various steps planned by the department to recharge the reservoirs. The project proposed now by Mr Faihani has selected three areas in the north where rainwater causes flooding, even damaging crops. Not only would the plan recharge reservoirs, but avoid needless damage to the crops, he said.

The first three test wells are to be in Al Majedah, Al Dawoudiah and Al Ghoayria, all in the North. The total storage of underground water in Qatar has been estimated at between 2,500 mcm. Water is a renewable source but

must be utilised with caution. Farmers are finding that they need to dig deeper to strike the water table. Even the quality of the water is being lost as the natural source gets depleted, as increasing salinity makes the water undesirable for irrigation," he said.

The proposal made by Mr Faihani is part of a scheme launched by the Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones. The UNDP has also associated itself with the scheme that seeks to conserve the water sources in the Arab world.

Qatar already had some experience with such wells because five such were drilled, as early as 1974. They proved to be a success.

Mr Faihani said the recharge scheme was helped to a great extent by the topographical maps prepared with the help of the Khartoum-based Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development. These highly detailed maps indicated the contours on the land and indicated the water beds.

Mr Faihani said the maps of the first phase, covering some 8000 hectares of farm and 12,000 hectares of arable land had already been received. Maps for the second phase, covering 6,000 hectares of farm and 18,000 hectares of arable land were expected within seven to eight months.

Meanwhile, a Saudi Arabian firm has drilled some 160 metres in a scheme that requires a deep well of upto 800 metres. Two such wells are to be drilled to find out if water at such depths is of good quality. The study has been initiated by Mr Faihani, because the farmers have to drill deeper now to find good irrigable water.

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CSO: 4400/42

IMPORTS ON DECLINE

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 18 Oct 86 p 17

[Text]

DOHA—Qatar's imports last year were put at QR4.146 billion, a two per cent decline over last year's (1984) imports of QR4.229 billion, according to the Qatari Central Statistical Organisation (QCSO).

Equipment, machines and transportation equipment were first on Qatar's import list and were valued at QR1.622 billion. Then came manufactured products QR799.5 million, foodstuffs and live animals worth QR630 million, and miscellaneous imports worth QR580 million. Other imports were: chemicals and related products worth QR214 million, raw materials, with the exception of fuels, worth QR124 million, beverages and tobacco worth QR91 million, oils and animal and vegetable fats worth QR35 million, lubricants worth QR33 million and other unclassified materials worth QR17 million, the

Japan came first among the leading 10 exporting countries in 1985 as its exports to Qatar totalled QR754 million. The UK was second with exports of QR674,822,000 and West Germany the third with exports worth QR360.5 million.

France had exports valued at QR315,763,000, and the United States exports totalling QR270,898,000. Italy exported goods worth QR203,711,000 and the Netherlands QR114,877,000.

The UAE came in the eighth place with exports totalling QR109,340,000, Australia ninth with QR103,773,000 and India in the tenth position with exports worth QR84,772,000.

Imports of consumer items last year were put to QR1.4 billion and intermediate goods at QR1.2 billion. Capital goods imports were worth QR1.5 billion.

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CSO: 4400/42

GULF RAIL LINK PLAN SHELVED

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 17 Oct 86 p 3

[Article by Ahmed Hassan]

[Text]

THE ambitious plan being discussed by AGCC Ministers to build a rail-road link to connect all AGCC countries has been indefinitely shelved.

The AGCC secretariat had asked a British consultancy firm to conduct a feasibility study of the plan. Informed sources at the AGCC secretariat have disclosed that according to the findings of the British company, every 1,200km of the railway line in the desert could cost upto \$4 billion.

The original plan was to link Kuwait with Iraq and through the lower Gulf countries, Iraq would have been connected with Muscat. Also, Saudi Arabia's prominent cities would have been connected to the entire railway network.

Although no progress has been made

in the rest of the AGCC states, the Saudi Arabian government has continued work on linking some of its major cities.

The Saudis also plan to link all the industrial townships with other major cities. In the eastern sector only Dammam is linked with Riyadh.

According to a master plan, the entire peninsula was to be rail-linked in 15 years' time. One-third of the area was to have been covered under the five-year development scheme. The plan was under active consideration when the prices of oil had reached their peak in 1979-1980.

With the fall in oil price and the petroleum gas developing its market as an alternative fuel, the AGCC Ministers of Communication decided to shelve the idea for the time being. However, sources indicate that the project has not been abandoned.

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CSO: 4400/32

SABIC ENCOURAGING INDUSTRIAL SECTOR

London MEED in English. 11-17 Oct 86 p 30

[Text]

MORE than \$4,000 million is expected to be channelled into new projects in the next five years by the Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (Sabic), the Middle East's biggest non-oil industrial conglomerate.

The money will be invested in several large industrial schemes, now being studied as part of the Riyadh-based concern's second-stage development. Controversy surrounds the strategy, however: some local business people have complained that Sabic is inhibiting private-sector development by refusing to give up its first claim on projects.

The industrial strategy adopted by Sabic — which is owned 70 per cent by the state, and the rest by citizens of Saudi Arabia and the other five Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries — has been outlined by vice-chairman and managing director Ibrahim Salamah.

"The first stage of Sabic's development," he says, "focused on ethylene and ethylene derivatives in the petrochemicals sector. Now we are interested in development of propylene and major first order derivatives, such as polypropylene and acrylonitrile.

"We have been carrying out studies in this area for quite some time in an attempt to pin down the optimum plan for producing large, economical sources of propylene, as well as for the configuration of the propylene derivatives complex. We also have studies in progress on an acetic acid/derivatives complex. Aromatics as basic petrochemicals are also a source of continuing interest to us in developing the basic petrochemicals sector."

\$10 billion invested

In its first development stage — from

1976-86 — Sabic invested about \$10,000 million in 10 worldwide heavy industries producing steel, fertilisers and petrochemicals at the industrial cities of Yanbu and Jubail. Most were carried out on a joint-venture basis with some of the industrialised world's biggest commercial concerns.

The potential projects in Sabic's 1986-90 plan, Salamah says, "are primarily for additional commodity products in the petrochemical, plastics, fertiliser and metals fields. Sabic has estimated that the capital investment required for this next stage of development is in excess of \$4,000 million. For the most part, these projects also involve participation in the export market."

The schemes "require extensive analysis and study prior to reaching a decision on whether to proceed or not." Among the criteria Salamah and his advisers will insist on, are that:

- ☐ products should be oriented to world markets, and should be able to compete with worldwide producers
- ☐ projects should be large and capital-intensive, because of economy of scale and technology requirements
- ☐ projects should require a high level of management, operating and marketing skills.

Conflict of interest

As a result of the drive for industrialisation, complaints have emerged of a conflict of interest between the public and private sectors. Local business people allege that Sabic is obstructing expansion of a range of downstream petrochemicals industries: when licence applications for certain industries are made to the Industry & Electricity Ministry, they say, the ministry passes them on to Sabic. The company then sits on

them, refusing to give up its first claim on the projects.

Such allegations are denied by Sabic, as well as other officials. In the first development stage, "the level of capital expenditure over a short period of time was beyond the capability of the private sector of almost any country, developed or developing," Salamah says.

In the second stage, "we view Sabic's relationship with the private sector to be complementary. As Sabic develops the commodity facilities for petrochemicals, plastics, fertilisers and metals, additional opportunities will be created for private-sector investment in the service and downstream manufacturing areas."

Co-ordination meetings

A further denial of the alleged conflict comes from Royal Commission for Jubail & Yanbu secretary-general Prince Abdullah Bin Faisal Bin Turki al-Saud. "The royal commission knows of no private-sector proposal that has been obstructed by Sabic. In fact, the commission has regular and extensive co-ordination meetings with Sabic, and one of the main purposes of such meetings is to ensure a smooth and expeditious joint commission/Sabic response to any private-sector proposal."

Prince Abdullah added: "Sabic is producing the essential bulk petrochemical building blocks for the rapidly emerging private sector's initiative in secondary industrialisation. Already steel from (Sabic subsidiary) Saudi Iron & Steel Company (Hadeed), for example, is to be used by the (private sector) National Industrialisation Company (NIC) for its steel wire project at Jubail. In the petrochemicals sector, apart from building some immediate downstream linkages with its primary petrochemical complexes — such as polyvinyl chloride/

vinyl chloride monomer (PVC/VCM) and polystyrene — Sabic has no plans to enter the secondary industries where private-sector initiative has been established or is being firmed up."

Private investment is also encouraged by the Industry & Electricity Ministry, particularly in downstream petrochemical projects in which the kingdom has "a comparative advantage," says Mohammad al-Mussallam, secretary-general of the ministry's Foreign Capital Investment Committee. "It should be noted that up to the end of hijra 1406 (4 September 1986), 272 downstream petrochemical projects that are to manufacture a range of products utilising primary products have been licensed. Of these, 150 are already in production."

Al-Mussallam said the ministry has given preliminary approval to a further 68 downstream projects. The next stage in the licensing process is for the investors to submit more details and feasibility studies. The schemes include five submitted by the Jeddah-based Saudi Venture Capital Group, for the manufacture of mono-cell protein, ethylene chloride, acrylic amides and urea formaldehyde resins. Preliminary approval has also been given to NIC for the production of butadiene, polyester and PVC compound.

"It would be evident from this that the ministry does encourage and license viable downstream petrochemical project proposals submitted by private-sector businessmen after necessary evaluation, and it would not be correct to state that Sabic is holding up progress by refusing to give up its first claim on many projects."

Adds Al-Mussallam: "We should emphasise that the ministry invites all investors who are seriously interested and capable of investing in viable downstream industries to get in touch with the ministry, which would be pleased to provide necessary assistance and support."

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CSO: 4400/32

BRIEFS

PROTECTION FOR DOMESTIC PRODUCTS UNDER DISCUSSION---Goods produced in the AGCC countries will become cheaper by 10 per cent compared to similar foreign products if a recommendation of the AGCC Industrial Cooperation Committee is accepted by the member countries. This was stated by Ahmed Al Tayer, Minister of State for Financial and Industrial Affairs, on return home after attending the committee meeting in Muscat yesterday. He said the measure was intended to provide protection to national products against foreign goods. The recommendation would now go to the AGCC Financial and Economic Committee, due to meet in Riyadh on Tuesday and Wednesday, for approval. He said matters relating to customs tariff had been discussed and it had been decided to refer these to member states for comments. Proposals for setting up a unified industrial organisation for AGCC countries would be discussed by the committee at its next meeting in March. The meeting also approved a number of projects relating to cables, a joint central telephone system and the manufacturing of tyres. [Text] [Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 17 Oct 86 p 3] /9274

CSO: 4400/32

BRIEFS

SUGAR BEET PRODUCTION--Mr Salim al-Shab'an, director general of the Public Company for Sugar, has stated that the period for processing sugar beets this season has ended in the factories in Tall Salhab, Jisr al-Shughur, and Maskanah, which were the only factories engaged in production. The amount of beets brought into these factories this season was 443,310 tons, resulting in 37,778 tons of white sugar. Mr al-Shab'an, added, "Important proposals were presented to the supreme agricultural council on operating all sugar factories in the country for the next season and on taking appropriate measures for producing approximately 1.5 million tons of sugar beets in order to supply [full] production power. This is in addition to refining 150,000 tons of raw sugar with the purpose of gradually eliminating sugar imports in view of the cost-effectiveness of locally processing the sugar beets, whose cultivation in the country has succeeded. [SANA] [Text] [Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 29 Sep 86 p 2] /9738

CSO: 4404/66

COMMENTARY ON NEW BUDGET OF DH14 BILLION

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 21 Oct 86 p 6

[Editorial: "Budgeting for Stability"]

[Text]

CONTRARY to earlier predictions, the national budget for 1986, approved and announced by the cabinet yesterday, showing an estimated expenditure of Dh14 billion and with revenues placed at Dh12.8 billion, is not substantially different from last year's. Moreover, the estimated deficit has been brought down to Dh1.18 billion as compared to the actual deficit of Dh2.26 billion in 1985, and it is no doubt going to be cut further by the time the year ends. This in effect provides further evidence that the concerted drive launched in 1981 to reduce expenditure is continuing to help the country cope with the economic difficulties created by the fall in income from oil. Last year, expenditure was slashed by 14.2 per cent, which was the lowest level since 1980; and in this year's budget, a cut of a straight billion has been made in defence expenditure alone (reflecting, incidentally, the growing cohesion in AGCC defence planning).

But the success in curtailing expenditure should not be allowed to cloud the fact that revenue has also not increased to any substantial degree. It was Dh11.2 billion in 1985, according to the Central Bank, and this year, it is placed at Dh12.8 billion. The oil outlook remains uncertain, and while there has been some firming up of prices—a trend likely to continue, if the Opec interim agreement is extended, till the end of the year—no drastic price increases can be expected for some time. That should only lend a sharper edge to the search for additional sources of income, and in this context it is significant that the Federal Supreme Council at its meeting last week called on the cabinet to define sources of financing on the basis of a memorandum finalised by the Ministry of Finance.

The budget-makers' dilemma of not wanting to disturb the existing economic and financial system too much is understandable. They have tried extremely hard not to burden the people and at the same time at least maintain the momentum of development projects already under execution. Economic stability has been ensured. But a longer-term look at the economy is necessary, and the need for firm planning obvious. If we had had proper development plans in the boom days, we could possibly have avoided much duplication and wasteful expenditure and budgeted for the period when the country's oil income would need to be supplemented. We can begin to do so now.

GYPSUM FOUND IN ABU DHABI

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 19 Oct 86 p 15

[Article by Ahmed Hassan]

[Text]

GYPSUM, also known as Plaster of Paris, is found in large quantities in the eastern sector of the emirate of Abu Dhabi. The product now used in large quantities in the cement industry, is present in the sub-structures of the soil around Al Ain, according to the latest mineral surveys conducted in the region by the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources.

Mr Saleh Mahmoudi, Director of the Mineral Affairs Department at the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, told Khaleej Times in an interview that the survey had proved beyond the shadow of a doubt that in some structures of the soil around Al Ain, gypsum was present up to 95 per cent. He said very soon the ministry would launch an ambitious project to extract the material in large quantities.

Mr Mahmoudi said it was expected that the country would soon be in a position to produce nearly 300,000 tons of gypsum every year when the production plant worked to full capacity. The Petroleum Ministry official said that the UAE was at present importing gypsum in quantities running into hundreds of thousands of tons.

Asked if the UAE would be able to consume all the gypsum, particularly when the construction industry was at a low ebb and cement production had been affected, he said gypsum had a very potential market in the region.

A market study would be conducted before any exports were undertaken, assured Mr Mahmoudi. The Oil Ministry official said it was very encouraging to note, however, that the country would be saving a great deal on imports.

Despite the fact that it was producing cement in large quantities its price had not gone down much. With the production of local gypsum in large quantities, he said, the price of construction cement was also likely to go down.

Gypsum, said the ministry official, was also used in a number of key industries and a market for the product was not likely to pose problems.

According to sources, all the seven Emirates are large importers of gypsum. One smaller Emirate in the north imported up to 100,000 tons of the material last year. The UAE, which exports oil, gas and fertilisers, is likely to become a major exporter of gypsum soon.

Mr Mahmoudi pointed out that extensive surveys would be conducted

in the near future to determine the quantities available in the soil. Extracting plants would be set up in the region soon and processing of material undertaken.

The Petroleum Ministry official said that the survey for various other minerals was also being conducted by the Department of Mineral Resources. He disclosed that deposits of copper and chromium had also been found in the UAE. However neither of the two metals had shown any commercial potential.

Further tests were being carried out to determine the total value of the deposits of copper and chromium initial results however, had not been encouraging.

Besides its use in the cement industry, the material is used largely to decorate and strengthen construction material in buildings. High quality gypsum has found many uses in several key industries. One of the important uses of the product has been in power generation.

The UAE would be the first country in the AGCC to export gypsum. It is to be noted that while the neighbouring Oman is a potential exporter of copper, the metal is believed to be present in commercial quantities in the UAE.

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CSO: 4400/38

BENAZIR'S POLITICS DISCUSSED

Lahore CHATAN in Urdu 21 Sep 86 pp 7-8

[Article by Sayyed Anwar Ghalib: "New Political Alliance of Benazir, Mumtaz Bhutto, and Wali Khan Likely"]

[Excerpts] The MRD has accepted defeat and is going to recall the national civil disobedience movement against the government which it had started on 21 September. Had Prime Minister Junejo not banned meetings on 14 August, the killings that took place might have been avoided. Miss Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan People's Party [PPP] needs the MRD once again. The MRD does not consider Miss Bhutto necessary for its program, and Miss Bhutto does not think that the MRD is capable of meeting her demands.

The absence of Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, former Air Vice Marshal Mohammad Asghar Khan, and Wali Khan, the leader of Awami National Party, from the very impressive meeting in Karachi and the negative attitude of the remaining parties toward Miss Bhutto indicates that Bizanjo, Nasrullah Khan, and Asghar Khan are looking for another national alliance and have decided not to join Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi in demanding a national government or an interim government. Miss Bhutto still has the trump card here. She will use it to defeat either the right wing reactionaries and her opponents in the MRD or against those who dislike Bhuttoism. Miss Bhutto will join forces with the Awami National Party and Mumtaz Ali Bhutto's front and demand new elections and establishment of legislative assemblies according to a new system. She considers the 1973 constitution dead or inappropriate in the present federal organization. She appears to be seriously considering sending a joint letter or political memorandum to President Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Junejo and demand establishment of a constitutional assembly. This would help establish grounds for future negotiations. In this regards Khan Wali Khan, Mumtaz Ali Bhutto, Hafiz Pirzada and others will support Miss Bhutto and will be prepared to face any political alliance. A new political situation can be developed by opening the doors of PPP to all people joining Miss Bhutto's group. She is neither tired nor disappointed. She is just a little bit puzzled and disturbed as she is trying to identify her real and fake supporters.

Miss Bhutto has no interest in recognizing President Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo intellectually, emotionally or psychologically. This is just a political necessity. The politicians who had suggested the slogan demanding reinstatement of the 1973 constitution had made an agreement

between the PPP and the armed forces impossible. Miss Bhutto has decided that if she accepts the martial law issued by the Supreme Court of Pakistan on 5 July 1977, then the chance of holding elections before 1990 becomes a viable possibility. To attain this goal she is trying to start political dialogue since this is the only political trump card she has in order to demand establishment of a new constitutional assembly. When Miss Bhutto, in coalition with Wali Khan and her political front, sends this demand to President Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Junejo, there will be a great political upheaval which will make all political alliances crumble. All anti-Bhutto groups will break and become ineffective and each politician will have to bear his own cross.

It appears that President Ziaul Haq and his military associates as well as Prime Minister Junejo and his political supporters are willing to discuss the possibility of holding general elections if a new constitutional assembly is established instead of trying to implement the 1973 constitution. The cool attitude toward the 1973 constitution by the people in Sarhad and Baluchistan, the success of the Front in Sindh, and Miss Bhutto's political defeat in Punjab have forced the PPP to give up its vengeful and stubborn attitude and become more practical. Demand for a new constitution by these important political parties would help open negotiation to end all the differences caused by Ziaul Haq's decisions made between 5 July 1977 and January 1985. It will also clean the present air of hatred and disappointment because the civil and military bureaucracy will become more cooperative fearing political persecution. The United States, India, the Soviet Union, and England will consider discussions about a new constitutional assembly an important step toward establishing a democratic government. There appears to be no reason for any political confrontation, and the political circles that desire reconciliation of politicians with President Ziaul Haq are eagerly waiting for Miss Bhutto to follow this new path. Most Parliament members will openly express their opinions in order to open doors for negotiation. The MRD has made way for Wali Khan and Miss Bhutto to play their cards by accepting total defeat. Whatever happens now will be the responsibility of the group that had tried to pitch Miss Bhutto alone against the army and those who had joined the MRD to sabotage her plans. We cannot rule out the possibility of some important political decisions being made by the end of this month even though most political circles are thinking to the contrary.

7997/5915

CSO: 4656/5.

SOVIETS ACCUSED OF ARMING TRIBES IN IRAN, PAKISTAN

Lahore CHATAN in Urdu 21 Sep 86 p 45

[Article by Khalid Parvez Malik: "Soviets Arming Tribes in Iran and Pakistan"]

[Excerpt] The Soviet Union has been trying to gain access to the warm waters in the Indian Ocean. To attain this goal it is arming tribes in the region that joins Afghanistan with Iran and Pakistan. These tribes are being led to believe that they will be able to establish an independent country. The USSR is using this approach to force Iran and Pakistan to recognize the puppet government of Afghanistan and establish some kind of dialogue between these governments. The USSR believes that a wide-scale rebellion of these tribes will help attain this goal. To this end, the USSR has established a radio station broadcasting in Baluchi in Qandahar Province. Iranian Baluches who belong to the Iranian Communist Party are managing this radio station. These people escaped to the USSR after the Iranian revolution. Tribal youth are invited to the USSR for training and education and at the same time the Soviet government has started another trick according to which arms are being supplied to anti-government elements in Iran and Pakistan. Arms and ammunition have been recovered from several political parties in both countries. Incidents of their involvement in violent activities have also come to light. In addition, the USSR has established an agency called MPP to organize guerrilla activities by Iranian, Baluchi, and Pakistani tribes. They have been given regular training in the USSR. A huge communication center has been established in the southern area of Afghanistan. This center is located in the area where borders of Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iran meet. The USSR would like to force Pakistan to open negotiations with the puppet government in Afghanistan in order to change the world opinion about Afghanistan. However, Pakistan is firm on its original stand and has once again refused to recognize the puppet government in Afghanistan.

7997/5915

CSO: 4656/5

GOVERNMENT ASKED TO CURB FALSE PROPAGANDA

Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 25 Sep 86 p 3

[Column 'Between The Lines' by Zahid Malik: "Bangladesh and Sindhu Desh"]

[Text] I met all kinds of people in London. There were exiled politicians, intellectuals, and journalists. I also exchanged conversations with some Pakistanis and others. I also interviewed several British government officials and leaders. I had also arranged to interview Mr Neil Kinnock the leader of the British opposition party--the Labour Party. However, I could not interview him as he had to go out of the country on a last minute notice.

Whenever I ran into a Pakistani while traveling from one place to another, the first question asked was about Pakistan and the second was about Sindh. Some people even asked about Sindh first. One or two even asked directly, "Mr Malik, when are you going to establish Sindhu Desh?"

I knew that the situation in Sindh was volatile when I was in Pakistan. The people there were feeling deprived and frustrated because of the activities of dacoits and the total picture of Sindh represented hardships and was in dire need of a political solution. However, the Pakistanis in London believe that the establishment of Sindhu Desh just like Bangladesh is imminent and is a must. I was told about the brutality of armed forces in Sindh during a recent "military operation." One person told me that his brother has written about the atrocities committed by the police, army and the Harons of Pagara Sahib and that Sindhis who did not cooperate are killed one by one. An apparently dependable and mature person told me a story about his close relative who is a deputy commissioner in a Sarhad District and has been transferred to a district in Sindh. That cousin is trying his best to get this transfer canceled as "he could get killed there anytime." According to this person, the deputy commissioner has decided to leave his family in Punjab in case he is forced to go to Sindh so he can run away from Sindh "in case of emergency." A self-exiled person with strong ties to Sindh told me that he has "reliable" sources telling him that four or five dead bodies are sent to Punjab daily. An intellectual asked: "Mr Malik, what will Punjab do after Sindh is segregated? Sindh has ports, natural gas is in Baluchistan, and water is controlled by India." In this very meeting one person made fun of Punjab by suggesting it should join the Sikhs and become a superpower.

Of course, other subjects were also discussed in such meetings. There are also some people who consider the Sindh's problem very simple and of local nature and cite it as a proof of ignorance or ineffectiveness of the present government. They want the government to deal strictly with Benazir and not to let her cause additional unrest. Mostly, however, those fears are discussed that I have listed in the beginning.

Since the establishment of Pakistan, I have noticed that whenever a problem at home is exaggerated abroad, the government blames the information ministry for its publicity experts' failure to present the case appropriately. This attitude is wrong and is analogous to an ostrich burying its head in sand. Publicity experts cannot prove a lie to be a truth and vice versa. Their success, if it is possible, would be temporary. We have to tell the truth about what is happening in Pakistan in general and Sindh in particular. Our embassies should be alerted to communicate facts about how people are trying to break Pakistan's unity while trying to change the government and what is happening in Sarhad to Pakistanis abroad. The real and permanent solution would be rectifying these problems. This brief column does not allow detailed discussions of various issues. It would take 10 or 12 days to write all I heard about "Sindhu Desh" from some educated and angry Sindhi youth and then write my reactions. Therefore, I am briefly hinting in this column that every Pakistani should pay attention to this problem and try to find solutions by keeping an open mind. I do not mean that what these Pakistanis living in England have said is correct. We need to take measures to stop this kind of talk since this is getting out of hand.

7997/12858
CSO: 4656/7

SIND SITUATION DISCUSSED IN LIGHT OF PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 19 Sep 86 p 12

[Report by Abdul Hafiz Abid]

[Excerpts] The prime minister's tour of Sind following the disorder caused by the agitation led by the People's Party and other parties included in the MRD is considered to be of great significance.

Law and Order

The prime minister's visit to Sind has brought to light certain points on which he touched earlier at Hyderabad. The law and order situation has deteriorated to such an extent that the dacoits are now openly attacking and looting people's homes in the rural areas. As a result, the inhabitants of villages and smaller towns are migrating to bigger cities. Incidents of murder, abduction, highway robbery and armed attacks on villages are occurring in such numbers that one has to assume that the provincial administration has completely failed to maintain law and order in the province. All sorts of explanations have been given for this state of affairs: corruption of the administration and the police department, bribery, political tug-of-war, the desire of some high government officials to get rich quick, incompetence, political expediency, and the high-handedness of the administration and its favorites. Everyone seems to know the causes of the terrible situation, but no one is taking any practical steps to make things better.

We believe that the situation cannot improve as long as the rulers attach more importance to the handful of spiritual leaders, ministers and political representatives (and their favorites) than to the life, property and honor of the millions of common people living in the province. Can one expect to get clean drinking water from a spring that has been polluted at the source?

Unemployment

Unemployment, a nationwide problem, is most acute in Sind. There seems to be truth to the complaint that Sind is not getting its fair share of government jobs and other economic rights. True ability and competence are

being defeated at every turn by nepotism and bribery. Various prejudices stand in the way of justice, and that is making Sindhis, especially those who are young, despondent and rebellious. The question of unemployment and injustice may lead to dire consequences in the future. The only way to get this situation under control is to mete out justice to every person in every walk of life.

The Muslim League

The third issue that must be kept in view is connected with the Muslim League. The league is said to be the ruling party in the country. Aside from the question of whether the league has really been elected, people are asking: "Is ruling power in the hands of the league, or is the league in the hands of the ruling power?" As far as pro-league opinion in Sind is concerned, it is generally thought that the league is in the grip of the government. This seems to be true, because the league is known through the people who rule the province and not vice versa. Except for a few big cities, the league has no organization. Still there are numerous ministers, members of parliament and leaders in the league. We can say that the league is strong because the administrative machinery and the Pir Pagara are with it. But it lacks the power pertaining to a political party with great popular support.

In order to fulfill the five-point program of the prime minister, to keep the administration within the bounds of law and justice, to uproot bribery and corruption, to help people obtain the benefit of all the schemes started by the government, to solve people's problems and to bring about social reform, we need a Muslim League comprised of members who are not selfish, power-mad self-seekers, but are sincere and practical men who are anxious to serve God and country.

The league can become a real power in the cities and rural areas only when it has members of high moral stature. Only thus can the league truly serve the common people and solve their problems. Otherwise, the league will become a mere name as soon as power leaves its hands. The failure of the league in solving problems will make people lose all trust in elected government. That will make it easy for another dictator to come to power in the country.

We hope that Mohammad Khan Junejo and other leaders will keep this fact in mind, and not only try to restore people's trust in democracy, but also teach them political wisdom so that they will make it impossible for anyone in the future to grab power by the backdoor.

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CSO: 4656/4

ATTENTION DRAWN TO POLITICAL OPPRESSION IN SIND

Karachi AMN in Urdu 28 Aug 86 p 2

[Column, From Jumma Khan's Pen: "Does the Sindhi Prime Minister Have Any Knowledge of the Deplorable Situation in the Interior of Sind?"]

[Excerpts] Believe it or not, it is a fact that in no other province in Pakistan can one find so many people from all four provinces as in Sind. In Sind, one comes across hundreds of thousands of Baluchis, Pakhtoons and Punjabis. Among them are laborers as well as millowners, poor as well as rich. As such, whatever happens in Sind affects the whole of Pakistan, so the other provinces cannot in any way remain indifferent.

Karachi is the largest city in Pakistan, all exports and imports use its port facilities, and it is where the largest number of foreign nationals reside. It is the capital of Sind and the center of industrial and commercial activities. Whatever happens in the interior of Sind cannot fail to affect this city. Similarly, whatever happens in Karachis is bound to affect the rest of Sind and the entire country. That is why all the other provinces have protested at the loss of life in Sind and all the patriotic elements in the country have tried to explain to the government time and again that it must not treat the people of Sind as slaves, stop meting out step-motherly treatment and put an end to every kind of official violence. But it is regrettable to note that either Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, who is from Sind, is indifferent to the oppression the people of Sind or else he is deliberately being kept in the dark about the dreadful situation prevailing especially in the villages.

Press reports state that people are being arrested and beaten and that women are being dishonored simply because of their association with the People's Party. There are tens of millions of supporters of the People's Party in Punjab, Baluchistan and the Frontier Province as well, but they are not subjected to such treatment there. Why is it a crime to be linked to the People's Party only in Sind, and why are the leaders and workers of this party made targets of oppression?

As I said, hundreds of thousands of people form other provinces live in Sind, and as such it is not possible to keep the other provinces in the dark about the events taking place in this province. At the same time, it is

also not possible to prevent reactions in the other provinces. If today the other provinces keep quiet while political restrictions are imposed in Sind and Sindhi leaders are arrested, tomorrow the same thing could happen in some other province and the people of Sind could then become silent spectators. Whether those who have suffered loss of life and property in Sind are Sindhis, refugees, Punjabis, Baluchis or Pathans, they are Pakistanis in every respect, and no Pakistani can ever tolerate a government committing excesses with respect to a compatriot in any part of the country. Regardless of whether the people living in the provincial capital, Karachi, call themselves refugees, Biharis, Pathans, Punjabis, Sindhis or Maiman, etc., if they have lived permanently in Sind, if they have obtained their identity cards, passports and ration cards in this city, then they are Sindhis and Pakistanis and have the same status as other Sindhis and Pakistanis. Even if they are not Sindhis, they enjoy the same rights and privileges as other Pakistanis, because Pakistan is a federation of four provinces. Among the four provinces, no one province is a boy and the other provinces girls. Just as in the case of a father's heritage the rights of daughters are equal irrespective of their ages, similarly the rights and privileges of all four provinces are the same. Just as the rights and privileges of girls are equal, so the rights and privileges of the four daughters are the same. If any province demands more rights and privileges, then it must prove that the remaining provinces are girls whose rights are less and it is boy and as such deserves more rights and privileges.

Those who reside permanently in Sind know very well that they are Sindhis regardless of which province they come from. It is their duty to share the well-being along with the grief of other Sindhis as well as the well-being and grief of other Pakistanis. If anything happens in Karachi, the reaction is felt throughout Pakistan. If anything happens in the interior of Sind, then there should be a reaction throughout the country, including Karachi. The national unity and unanimity demand this. If we allow personal, group, tribal and regional interests to get in the way, we will fail in our efforts to turn the Pakistan federation, consisting of four provinces, into a beautiful bouquet of flowers.

Miss Benazir Bhutto, cochairman of the Pakistan People's Party, who is equally popular among the masses in all four provinces, is the only person who is striving for the survival of the Pakistan federation. We do not have any other national leader who commands the respect and honor of the people in all four provinces and whom they can follow. Some leaders have influence in Sind, some in Punjab, while the voice of some can only be heard in Baluchistan. In some parties the followers consist only of Devbandis, in others only of Barelvīs. The People's Party is the only organization that can boast of members representing all political and religious concepts. It is the only party that can improve the national unity and maintain the national integrity. But the party in power has particularly made this party the target of oppression in Sind, proving that knowingly or unknowingly it has become the instrument of elements that are damaging the safety and security of Pakistan.

The People's Party is linked with the MRD [Movement for the Restoration of Democracy], which is an organization of major political parties. The MRD sent a memorandum to the ambassadors of all countries, explaining the internal situation in the country and requesting that they ask their governments to bring moral pressure to save the Pakistani people from oppression. Nowhere in the memorandum does it say that "Hajjaj Bin Yousuf" should send an army to save the people from oppression by Raja Dajar. But Zain Noorani, minister of state for foreign affairs, has strongly objected to this memorandum, although a similar memorandum was sent to the ambassadors during the national unity movement, with which Zain Noorani was connected at that time. The national unity movement sent open letters to the armed forces and their leaders, asking them not to implement illegal orders. But at the time Zain Noorani considered all such actions as lawful and legal. The only aspiration of the present movement in Sind and other parts of the country is to indicate that the members are not prepared to accept restrictions, that they want an end to autocracy and that their goal is complete restoration of democratic rights and privileges. Among the leaders at the head of this movement are leaders and workers of the "handkerchief movement", the "movement for forsaking wealth", the "khilafat movement" and the national unity movement. Their elders made unforgettable sacrifices, and the children are determined to fight to the end for the survival of Pakistan, which is considered a gift of God.

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CSO: 4656/01

SERIOUS CONCERN EXPRESSED OVER LAWLESSNESS IN SIND

Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 11 Oct 86 Supplement p 1

[Report by Mohammad Nawaz Khilji: "Serious Situation Regarding Law and Order Breakdown in Sind"]

[Excerpts] The blaze of the fire of civil war could flare up any time in Sind. The climate for a civil war is speedily being smoothed out by certain anti-Pakistan elements. Under the categorical principles of a civil war, the first stage is swiftly being accomplished by spreading fear and terror among the people in Sind through lawlessness, by creating an environment of prejudice, hatred and mistrust among various sectors, by paralyzing the administration and rendering it worthless and helpless and by provoking the youth against the country on the bases of nationality. Under the determined plan and conspiracy, the situation of law and order in Sind, day by day, is being made extremely critical and grave. In broad daylight, the banks and well to do people in big cities, towns and villages are being robbed. After sunset, the state highway, the Indus highway and all the other important roads of Sind are controlled by armed robbers. These dacoits have transformed the Sind police into an ineffective institution. The people have lost their confidence in the police. On both sides of the Sind River, more than 200 small and big villages located in between the state highway and the Indus highway are already totally vacant. Just a few months ago, life was happy in those villages. Today, there is dead silence there. The crops are ready for harvesting. An area of hundreds of thousands of acres is wasted, because the workers and farmers cultivating these crops, valued at tens of millions of rupees, and the smaller landlords owning these lands, have deserted their houses, lands and property and have moved to the cities in order to safeguard their life, wealth, honor and prestige. Here, these people, in a state of extreme helplessness, are being driven from door to door. While the big landlords and businessmen also, along with their families, have already shifted to the cities like Heydarabad, Sukkhar and Karachi. Their employees and workers are taking care of their lands. In the rural areas of Sind, people lock their doors in the early evening, and remain inside. So much so, that at night now, many people do not even go to water their crops and lands. As a result, most of the water is not used. Previously, in the rural areas, most fights were usually over whose turn it was to get water. After sunset, the rural areas appear desolate. The car and truck drivers, afraid of robbers, stop wherever they are in the evening. The highways seem deserted at night. However, when the vehicles of the law-enforcement authorities pass by patrolling the state highway, a few truck and bus drivers courageously follow

them and cross the areas surrounded by the dacoits. People now have absolutely no trust in the police. The general perception in Sind is that many officers in the Sind police up to the rank of a sub-inspector and soldiers cooperate with the dacoits. Besides regularly furnishing them with every kind of information, they also provide them an opportunity to plunder with comfort and ease. According to the people, some robbers are dressed up in police uniforms and ride in vehicles similar to the police. Therefore, now even during the day it has become difficult to recognize the real and fake policeman. In this regard, the Pir of Ranipur, in one of his statements, has clearly said that the Sind police not only cooperate with the dacoits, but often participate in their activities as well.

Regarding this matter, the DSP of Nawab Shah police, Mr Maula Bukhsh Ansari, in his interview, has made very startling disclosures. The said DSP was forcefully abducted from Garhi Khairu District Jacobabad during the first week of September by Sind's dangerous robber, Daru Chanduo. After remaining for nearly 17 days in the custody of the dacoits, he has returned to his home. He told a Sindi newspaper that majority of the Sind police sub-inspectors, ASIs, head constables and soldiers are cooperating with the dacoits. In addition, the influential landlords of Sind, on one hand claim to be the supporters of the regime and the helpers of the administration and on the other hand, these landlords give refuge to the dacoits. They provide them with every type of cannon ball and gun-powder, and other essential items. If the robbers do get caught in the siege laid by the law-enforcement institutions, these landlords, in order to free the dacoits from their cardon, utilize their influence and direct the law-inforcement authorities towards the wrong path. He disclosed that the robbers are now fully organized, armed and trained. They have their own regular government in the forest and mountain regions. They also have their own law. They recruit new dacoits in those areas and train them to use weapons. Now the robbers do not suddenly go out to rob, instead, prior to the plunder, they prepare a plan after acquiring information about the area. If the administration truly wishes to exterminate the dacoits of Sind, first of all, the Sind police should be totally reorganized. The department should be purged of the officers and the youth who work for the robbers.

The anti-Pakistan sector has already attained success in its area, and according to their desire, the superiority of law has ended in the Sind Province. Those very people are under the mercy and grace of the dacoits, as a result of which, people possess immensely strong feelings against the current administration, especially the provincial government and the provincial ministers. Perhaps, this is the very reason why, on numerous occasions, voices of this sort have been raised from the interior of Sind, indicating that, after establishing a governorship in Sind, the administration of the province should be handed over to the military. Because, the rural people are fed up with lawlessness and the increasing activities of the anti-social elements. Due to the lack of law and order in the rural areas, rural economy, too, is being badly affected. The impact of this affects commerce and industry in the province. As a result of this, a serious social and economic crisis might occur in the province. The adversaries of the administration, especially that element of Sind which intends to cause conflict by creating an atmosphere of hatred and mistrust among various sectors inhabited in Sind on linguistic bases, will

try to take full advantage of this situation. Today, the leaders who want to incite civil war in the name of linguistic turmoils in Sind are, once again, active. These leaders are instilling hatred among the youth of Sind against a specific sector. This leads us to estimate, that, in Sind, through foreign aid, preparations for starting a civil war are swiftly being completed. Heaps of illegal sophisticated weapons are being piled in Sind for this purpose. All hopes of the patriotic citizens of Sind are pinned on the federal government and the measures it would take to protect Sind from a civil war. Also, after establishing law and order in Sind, it should squelch the contemptible intentions of those who, upon foreign direction, desire to play a bloody game in Sind.

9779/5915

CSO: 4656/8

TERRORIST INCIDENTS BLAMED ON 'INTERNATIONAL PLOT'

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 18 Sep 86 p 3

[Editorial: "Pakistan--Target of International Terrorism"]

[Text] First the terrorists tried to hijack a Pan Am plane at Karachi, and 20 passengers died as a result of the skirmish that followed; then an Iraqi diplomat was murdered, also in Karachi; 2 days later a Soviet envoy was killed in a bomb blast. Three terrorist incidents in a row lead us to suspect that Pakistan has been made the target of international activism. The purpose is to render Pakistan internally unstable and poison its relations with other countries. The aim seems to be to prevent Pakistan from achieving the goal of a democratic government. The big powers want to halt our progress toward democracy by provoking unprecedented incidents of terrorism all around us. In Sind murders are taking place for which dacoits are blamed, while in Islamabad a Soviet diplomat has been murdered. These seemingly unconnected incidents are in fact the result of an international plot aimed at destroying the unity and integrity of Pakistan.

The intention of those who tried to hijack the Pan Am plane was to kill all the passengers on board. They were defeated by Pakistani commandos, who by their quick and daring action managed to save most of the victims. People all over the world commended the way our commandos did their job, but India has tried to make this incident an excuse for increasing its hostility toward Pakistan. The statements of some Indian rulers seem to imply that they are sorry the hijackers failed in their design. The Indian rulers only wanted to find an excuse for defaming Pakistan. When the hijackers attacked the Pan Am plane (which was carrying mostly Indian passengers), they were serving a dual purpose: they wanted to spoil our relations both with India and with the United States. Luckily, the United States did not rise to the bait. If the hijackers had been Arab freedom fighters, they would have made trouble in a country that was against them. Why should they make mischief in a country that is their friend? Clearly, the hijackers were the agents of an anti-Pakistan power. It is deplorable that some people in our own country by making irresponsible statements have strengthened the hands of the enemies.

It was not by chance that an Iraqi diplomat was killed in Karachi in the month of Moharram. Iran and Iraq have been at war for years. If an important man of one country is slain, the blame is at once placed on the other country. That is what could have happened, and the religious sects of the two countries (Shias and Sunnis) would have started to fight in Pakistan. Mercifully, that did not happen, but Pakistan was given a bad name once again. Only 2 days later, a Soviet diplomat was killed in his car for no obvious reason. Our government is trying to find the reason for this murder, because a madman would not have chosen a Soviet diplomat as his victim. It will be recalled that we are not on good terms with the Soviets, partly because we are helping the Afghan Mujahidin and sheltering Afghan refugees and partly because we do not agree with the way of life that the Soviets are trying to teach the whole world. At this moment, Pakistan is in the most sensitive position in this part of the world where the United States and the Soviets are fighting for supremacy. The agents of the two superpowers are busy with their intrigues in Pakistan and can cause an explosion at any time. It is possible that the murder of the Soviet diplomat was contrived to increase Soviet hostility toward Pakistan. All these terrorist attacks seem to be connected. The result will be an endless chain of attacks and counterattacks between Pakistan and other countries.

We hope that our rulers are alert to all the possible consequences of these incidents. We know that terrorists generally attack the embassies of other countries, and such incidents happen despite the best security measures. According to the Vienna Convention, the security of embassies is entirely the responsibility of the host country. In the past, such terrorist attacks did not take place in Pakistan, so no stringent security measures were adopted. Now things have changed, and Pakistan should maintain the strictest security at the embassies. At the same time, we should keep in view the purpose for which international terrorists are making Pakistan the target of their activities. They want to cause lawlessness in Pakistan so that on the one hand the democratic movement will die before it has flowered, and on the other hand their agents working inside the country will gain the opportunity to expand their nefarious activities. It is time for the nation and the national leaders to present a united front against our enemies. It is time for us to forget our petty quarrels and unite in the name of our nation; this is essential if we want to survive. We should read the writing on the wall.

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CSO: 4656/3

REGIONAL UNIFORMS AT ASIAN GAMES CRITICIZED

Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 24 Sep 86 p 3

[Editorial: "Four Nations in the Asian Games"]

[Text] The opening ceremonies of the 10th Asian Games being played in Seoul were broadcasted live on Pakistan television. The viewers watching the Pakistani contingent were surprised to see four regional uniforms worn by our athletes instead of a national uniform. They wondered if Pakistan was not one nation. Whoever had thought of representing Pakistan as four nationalities should be treated as an enemy of the country. No country, except Pakistan, had demonstrated such absurdity in the athletes parade. The fact is that Pakistani athletes participating in Asian Games were representing Pakistan and not a region or a race. We did not have to demonstrate such a sorry picture of our lack of unity to the whole world. We have a government with a philosophy and still some "intelligent" person had the nerve to insult this government. All this must be premediated. It is depressing to see that we have not been able to become a nation even after 40 years of independence mostly due to such actions. We forgive people like G. M. Sayyed, Wali Khan, and Mumtaz Bhutto in the name of being liberal and we do not demand individuals going abroad to show that we are but one nation. All this encourages instigators and supporters of a confederation of provinces to make trouble openly. Can we expect the present Muslim League government to investigate the people who used a government-sponsored event to propagandize four nationalities?

7997/12858

CSO: 4656/7

NOORANI SAYS ASSEMBLY HAS NO RIGHT TO ENACT SHARIAT BILL

Karachi DAWN in English 20 Oct 86 pp 1, 6

[Text]

KARACHI, Oct 19: Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani, President of the Jamiat Ulema-i-Pakistan, has said the JUP was opposed to, what he termed, the Mansoorah-brand Shariat.

"We neither want Islam of Gen Zia's choice nor do we recognise the right of an unrepresentative Assembly, which the present National Assembly is, to consider the Shariat Bill", he told *Dawn* in an interview here on Sunday.

The Maulana pointed to the Objectives Resolution and the 1973 Constitution which, in his view, clearly acknowledged the supremacy of the Holy Book and Sunnah. "As for the legislation it could be easily done by the future genuinely-elected Parliament", he averred.

Maulana Noorani thought that the presentation of the proposed Shariat Bill was a "nefarious move" on the part of the powers-that-be to distract attention of the people from the basic issue of transfer of power through party-based elections to the elected representatives.

"If Gen Zia was so sincere in his professions, he could have enforced Shariat in 24 hours through a Presidential Order/Ordinance or a Martial Law Regulation, a sizeable number of which he had promulgated during his eight-and-a-half years of Martial Law regime", the JUP chief pointed out.

Maulana Noorani lashed out at

the Junejo-led Muslim League Government for its move to ban political processions, saying that it exposed the "hollowness of the official party's claim for so-called democracy".

The multitudes who join a political procession demonstrate which way they sided and what they clamoured for, the Maulana observed while stating that the Prime Minister and his Ministers, now acknowledging their failure, had thought of banning such processions.

Gen Zia, he recalled, had publicly charged the National Assembly with dilly-dallying over the question of taking up the Shariat Bill and, accordingly, he had "instigated the people to 'gherao' the Assembly". "Thus, in a way, Gen Zia had recognised the utility and efficacy of processions," he opined.

Criticising those who say that processions caused hindrance in the normal vocations of the common man, the JUP chief asked what happens when the President or the Prime Minister passed by under police escort on thoroughfares, thereby disrupting the civic life and affecting the normal business.

Maulana Noorani referred to Prime Minister Junejo's latest speech at Faisalabad, wherein he accused the political leaders of not daring to face even an Army Major during the Martial Law regime and sitting cosily in their bungalows. "Perhaps, the Prime Minister had

in mind his personal experience in his home village", he said, adding Mr Junejo was "an unknown quantity at a time when the JUP and the MRD leaders were looking at the military rulers squarely in the face".

Asked what the need of the hour was, the JUP chief said all the political parties should ensure that the electoral rolls were error-free. The Election Commission, he alleged, had failed to do its duty since it had itself acknowledged that in certain areas, enrolment of voters had been done incorrectly and in a lopsided manner and, therefore, had ordered fresh enrolment there.

According to Maulana Noorani, 1987 was the year of elections for which the political parties should start preparing from now. The local bodies elections would be held first and the political parties should take full part because on the outcome of these polls, the nation wide general elections on a party basis were bound to be held, he asserted.

To a question, Maulana Noorani replied that a dialogue without a prepared agenda with the Government would be an exercise in futility. Only when the Government made a firm commitment to hold elections under the 1973 Constitution, could the Opposition sit at a conference table to fix the date and evolve other modalities for general elections, he observed.

WORLD BANK SAID TO WITHHOLD PART OF ENERGY LOAN

Karachi DAWN in English 20 Oct 86 p 1

[Article by M. Ziauddin]

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Oct 19: The World Bank is reported to have withheld a part of its 175 million dollars energy sector loan because of the failure of the Pakistan government to enhance, as promised, the electricity tariff by about 10 per cent during the current year.

When the energy sector loan agreement was finalised in 1984-85, it was made conditional to a progressive enhancement of power rates with a 10 per cent increase in 1986-87, 14 per cent in 1987-88, 22 per cent in 1988-89 and 6.6 per cent in 1989-90.

The first instalment of the loan, amounting to 104 million dollars, was disbursed in 1985-86; but the next, which was to be disbursed in 1986-87 after the Government had effected the 10 per cent increase in the power tariff, has been withheld.

According to sources close to WAPDA, the country would need an additional capacity of 3,000 mw by 1990 to cope with the village electrification programme included in the Prime Minister's five-point four-year plan.

Under a covenant signed between the Government of Pakistan and the World Bank, 40 per cent of the capital requirement for the 3,000 mw additional capacity would have to be generated by the WAPDA while the balance would be made available by the World Bank.

And in order to raise this 40 per

cent of the capital, the World Bank felt that the WAPDA needed to enhance its tariff rates progressively over a period of five years.

Since the Government appears to be in no mood to enhance the power tariff rates, knowledgeable circles feel that the World Bank assistance also would not be forthcoming, resulting in massive shortfalls in the village electrification programme.

Meanwhile it has been learnt that the disbursement of \$150 million Asian Development Bank loan for crop intensification programme, for which a memorandum of understanding has been signed between the Bank and the Government of Pakistan, would also be delayed in view of the Government's inability to fulfil one of the conditions for the loan with regard to *abiana* rates.

The memorandum of understanding, which expires in December 1986, has allowed the Government of Pakistan to discuss the issue with the Provincial Governments as *abiana* is a provincial subject.

According to informed sources, the Federal Government has so far not succeeded in convincing the Provincial Governments to agree to enhance the *abiana* rates.

The sources said that since the Provincial Governments, especially of Sind and Punjab, drew their political strength from the agricultural lobby, they would not like to enhance the *abiana* rates.

Therefore, in their opinion, the Government would have finally to make do without the 150 million dollars of assistance from the Asian Development Bank.

COMMENTARY VIEWS IMF CONDITIONS

Karachi DAWN in English 18 Oct 86 Business Supplement pp I, IV

[Article by M. Ziauddin]

[Text]

BELIEVE IT or not, but the International Monetary Fund is said to have told Pakistan to slow down its growth rate, officially claimed to be galloping at about seven per cent per annum, in order to qualify for balance of payments support to the extent it has requested.

An indirect confirmation of this condition came from the Federal Finance Minister himself when in answer to a question, at his post-Washington visit press conference, he said that though Pakistan's share from the Fund's balance of payments support amounted to 250 million dollars, the Fund was prepared to discuss only 50 million dollars on the plea that it needed the balance to accommodate the needs of those countries whose growth rates were slower than Pakistan's.

Unbelievable

And even the negotiations on the 50 million dollars are said to be linked to yet another unbelievable demand that the Fund should be given a mandatory say in the determination of sectoral priorities and allocations with respect to development budget.

This link, however, is said to be shrouded in the typical IMF language which says that for qualifying for assistance from its facilities the recipient will be required to

submit its own set of proposals envisaging economic reforms but which means that only those proposals which fit the Fund's perceptions would be accepted.

Independent economic experts believe that by putting forward two unbelievable conditions for extending balance of payments support, IMF has in effect conveyed its unwillingness to rescue Islamabad from its current balance of payments problems.

Strange coincidence

Some see a very strange case of coincidence between IMF's pressure on Pakistan to slow down its growth rate and American agriculture's adverse situation.

They said magic crop varieties developed in recent years like Mexipak wheat Irri-rice and Niab cotton, despite indifferent official agricultural policies, have helped Pakistan to pose a threat to the American monopoly hold over world wheat, rice and cotton market notwithstanding the massive export subsidies.

Also Pakistan is said to be on the threshold of a breakthrough in oilseeds production, which could reduce its need for import of edible oils.

Agriculture sector

In the opinion of these experts, any slowing down of growth rate in Pakistan would in actual fact mean a drastic curtailment only in the ag-

ricultural output.

According to them, industrial activity has already been slowed down considerably after the elimination of cost plus basis of pricing (this has affected sugar and cement projects, liberalising of imports of manufactured goods (this has affected the nascent engineering goods industry) and finally the rejection of applications for putting up DAP fertiliser plants on the flimsy grounds of threat to environment.

They further said that as the contribution of drug trafficking, remittances and gun running — which is reflected significantly in the services sector and which is estimated to beef up this sector's contribution to economic growth by almost 10 per cent — is beyond the official regulatory controls, the government, even if it wished, cannot effect any slowing down of growth in this sector.

Therefore, they think, if Islamabad needed the 50 million dollars very badly to improve the balance of payments position, it will have to slow down the growth in the agricultural sector which will, in turn, slow down significantly the overall growth rate.

A cautious step in this direction, they believed, was taken by the government when recently it enhanced the *abiana* rates and leaked out its intention to increase power rates soon.

But how far the government will go to oblige the IMF is still a moot point as they see the powerful ag-

ricultural lobby, sitting inside the government, putting up a tough fight to resist the proposed measures.

However, in case Pakistan is denied the IMF balance of payments support a serious scenario is expected to emerge.

Despite over 40 per cent increase in exports during the first three months of the current financial year, compared to the corresponding period last year, and an almost five per cent decline in imports, the export-import gap is not expected to remain under control during the year.

This is confirmed by the fact that throughout the first quarter of the current year the foreign exchange reserves of the country have remained stagnated at around 500 million dollars.

Reserves

There is a definite slowing down in the remittances and a sudden jump in the rate of amortisation putting a further burden on the country's reserves position.

The situation has deteriorated to such a level that Pakistan's creditworthiness in the international commercial banking circles is said to have taken a nose dive.

As it is, unlike previous year when Pakistan could contract between 150 to 350 million dollars of commercial loans from international banking syndicates at a nominal percentage interest over libor, this year it could mobilise only 100 million dollars and that too at a hefty percentage interest over libor.

Balance of payments

While the deteriorating balance of payments position is said to be threatening the rate of current consumption, development efforts are reportedly stagnating due to shortage of rupee resources required to provide the matching finances for utilising project aid.

Paradoxically, the decline in imports which serves a positive purpose in relation to export-import gap, becomes a negative factor in relation to the budgetary gap.

Thus, the decline in imports during the first quarter of the current year has resulted in declining government income from Customs which contributes the bulk of government's revenue.

This declining trend in the governmental revenue looks all the more dangerous if read with the fact that the budget has been burdened with an extra expenditure of Rs 1.3 billion allocated recently to subsidise the textile industry.

Five-point programme

The impact of the revenue shortage is expected to be felt acutely by the social sectors in the final analysis, thereby throwing out of gear the Prime Minister's four-year five-point programme.

Experts believe that at least in the first year of the programme the actual expenditure on it will be less than half of what was allocated in the budget.

They said that the early trends indicate that even a hefty resort

to deficit financing during the year to the tune of around Rs 15 billion would not be able to retrieve the situation.

The real round of deficit financing, they said, would rear its head sometime by the end of the second quarter and by the third quarter the general price line would come under heavy pressure.

According to experts, the only way the government could avert the eventuality of galloping inflation and to debt default situation by the end of the year, is to mobilise urgently at least about 250 million dollars for balance of payments support and about 100 million dollars in commodity aid which could be converted quickly in rupee by selling off the commodity in the domestic market. The rupee thus earned could be used as matching resources to activate the dormant project aid.

It is a short-term remedy, they said, and it will cost the country heavily because the only access to this remedy is through the IMF and its conditionalities.

And if the remedy is rejected, the country will face galloping inflation, debt default, shortages, increased unemployment and the resultant socio-political unrest.

A perfect case of being caught between the devil and the deep sea.

The long-term remedy, which has the ability to alleviate the situation at a very nominal cost is, however, very simple: expand the tax base to include agriculture incomes, introduce an element of reason in which as much as Rs 40 billion does not leak out annually, experts said.

OIL REPORTEDLY BEING SMUGGLED TO IRAN

Karachi DAWN in English 21 Oct 86 pp 1, 5

[Article by Siddiq Baluch]

[Text]

QUETTA, Oct 20: Following fuel rationing in Iran earlier this month, smuggling of oil from Pakistan into Iran has started on a small scale. A number of Pakistani vehicles were seen carrying drums of oil to Iran during a visit to the border region of Chagai district by this correspondent earlier this week.

The Iranian Government had imposed the rationing of petrol in the first week of current month to 'protect the strategic reserves'. Iran is a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), an international cartel regulating the production and marketing of oil throughout the world.

Prior to the Gulf war with Iraq, Iran was approximately producing over 3.5 million barrels of oil per day. But during the six years of war with Iraq, Iran's main oil terminals at Kharg and Seri islands came under devastating air strikes while its biggest oil refinery at Abadan was destroyed at the initial stages of war.

Iran is now producing over one million barrels of oil daily as per quota fixed by the OPEC to stabilise oil prices which fell to mere five dollars a barrel earlier this year due to glut in the international market.

As the war in the Gulf region intensified and the oil terminals, refineries, passing oil tankers and oil dumps came under intense attacks from both sides, the Iranian Government imposed rationing of petrol to the motorists.

According to Iranian travellers coming to Pakistan, the Government in Tehran has fixed 10 litres a day for a vehicle plying inside the country. With the rationing of oil in Iran, the smugglers started carrying Pakistani oil to Iran. Before the rationing Iranian oils were used in the Pakistani vehicles for over two decades and at the cheapest price of Rs five per gallon.

Now oil is being smuggled into Iran at a price of over Rs 30 per gallon. But the smuggling has been on a limited scale by those living on the border regions and using 'illegal routes' for smuggling of Ira-

nian goods to Pakistan.

With the smuggling of Pakistani oil into Iran, the sale of major Pakistani oil stations, including the state-owned Pakistan State Oil (PSO) in the border region close to Iran have also increased manifold.

In the Chagai District of Pakistani Baluchistan, the last petrol pump is located at Nukkundi, about 90 miles from the international frontiers. It makes the operations impossible for the smugglers to transport their goods from Iran with mere 10 litres a day.

The consumption of petrol increases on the route, as the Nukkundi-Taftan section of RCD highway is not metalled while some of it passes through sandy areas.

Earlier, the Pakistani smugglers set up an 'oil terminal' at Taftan on the borders with Iran where hundreds of empty drums could be seen. But now it wore a deserted look as there was no Iranian oil available at the dry oil terminal at Taftan.

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CSO: 4600/37

PPP LEADERS DISALLOWED ENTRY INTO PUNJAB

Karachi DAWN in English 20 Oct 86 p 1

[Text]

SUKKUR, Oct 19: The Punjab Government disallowed entry to a number of prominent PPP leaders, when they reached Punjab border beyond Ubauro in Sukkur district, accompanying Ms Benazir Bhutto, Co-chairman, Pakistan People's Party. This was disclosed by a former MNA from Tharparkar, Syed Khadim Ali Shah.

According to him, the Deputy Commissioner, Rahimyar Khan accompanied by a police party, refused entry into the province of Punjab to Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani, Acting President, Sind People's Party, Makhdoom Khaliquzzaman, Mr Aftab Shaban Meerani, Syed Khadim Ali Shah, and several other PPP leaders from Sind.

They were informed that the Punjab Government had imposed a

ban on brining out processions and they could not be allowed to enter Punjab in the form of a procession.

Ms Benazir Bhutto, however, was allowed to enter Punjab along with Mr Jehangir Badar, the Punjab PPP President, General (retd) Tikka Khan, Mr Afzal Sindhu, Begum Ashraf Abbasi and Syed Qaim Ali Shah.

Syed Khadim Ali Shah also said that an unknown person, riding a Datsun pickup, repeatedly attempted to collide with the car in which Ms. Benazir Bhutto was travelling. However, the PPP workers caught hold of him and handed him to Police. The workers also saved beating to the suspect.

More than 150 cars had to come back to Sind when not allowed to enter Punjab.

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CSO: 4600/36

COMMENTARY CRITICIZES SECRECY OF ANTI-DACOIT OPERATIONS

Karachi DAWN in English 20 Oct 86 p 7

[Text]

FOR MORE than two weeks, a major operation has been under way against dacoits in the interior of Sind. Typically, official information about the operation is very sketchy. The total picture remains incomplete even after all the pieces of published information are put together. What seems certain, however, is that this is what the Government may have conceived as a decisive move against dacoits who have made their hideouts largely in the riverine forests along the Indus, roughly between Hyderabad and Sukkur. It is also evident that force is being used at a maximum level. Apart from the police and the constabulary, regular army units are said to have gone into action. There have been charges from some political quarters that up to three army divisions have been sent into battle against the well-organised and well-armed dacoits. There have been reports of induction of commando units also. But there is no way to confirm or deny these statements or allegations as not enough briefings are available from the authorities. Only occasional successes, such as the death in an encounter of Ali Gohar Chandio, one of the most notorious of Sind's dacoits, are officially released. One understands the need for a degree of secrecy in planning

the operation and then setting it into motion. But the people have the need to know the details at the end of each successive stage, particularly in view of the repeated allegations that political elements and 'waderas' have links with the dacoits. Incidentally, criminal activities in the interior have not so far come to a halt or decreased markedly in the wake of the massive police-army operation. There may have been fewer kidnappings for ransom. But, on the other hand, there have been some killings of suspected informers. There are also indications that a number of dacoits have escaped from their hideouts as law-enforcing agencies closed in on the area. This should cause fresh concern about the next move of these heavily armed desperados.

In the absence of full information, there will be speculation about the role of the army and the extent of its involvement in the operation. We should like to believe that the army has only been assigned to assist the civilian authorities and that the control of the operation rests entirely with the Sind Government. After all, the credit or the consequences of the ongoing operation will have to be owned by the civilian authorities, federal as well as provincial. We have pre-

viously commented on the hazards of a military option in dealing with the dacoits. The entire fallout will be for the civilian government to deal with. Such is the working of the army that it is not expected to exercise any political judgment or subject itself to the discipline of a political approach, which must necessarily be a vital element in tackling such situations. We hope that the strategy adopted will be conducive to the formation of an elite police force capable of dealing with an emergency of this nature, as we have suggested a number of times in this space. Such an elite force should be specially trained and armed and, in times of need, may be deployed with the army's logistic support. In no case should the general control of operations be yielded entirely to non-civilians.

While we endorse a quick and decisive operation to weed out the dacoits and restore public order and civil security, the seed issue is political alienation in the interior of Sind. This creates an environment in which outlaws and bandits can operate with a considerable degree of impunity. It is instructive to note that though political articulation in Sind was effectively suppressed, the crime situation was, by default, allowed to assume serious proportions. The psychological di-

mension of this paradox may be further enhanced if innocent citizens are caught in the cross-fire or if the raw force of the law-enforcing agencies is used without much discernment or circumspection — as apprehended by some observers. It is to be understood that what exists in Sind is not entirely an administrative problem — a law-and-order one, to be more precise. All those who have studied the situation have been issuing warnings that Sind needs meaningful political initiatives. The fact that some members of the gang of dacoit Kashmir Khan, who was arrested in Karachi the other day, are university students is a tellingly significant one. If fundamental issues are not resolved, one crop of criminals can easily be replaced by another, nurtured in the crucible of Sind's widespread discontent. Our geostrategic conditions also dictate an early attention to the wider implications of growing alienation in Sind. History tells us that there are always some political forces to make capital out of a widely shared sense of deprivation and alienation. Hence, the Provincial Government must take the people into confidence and tell them not just the relevant details of the present operation against dacoits but also explain its political strategy to deal with the accumulated problems of Sind.

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CSO: 4600/36

ANTI-ENCROACHMENT OPERATION AGAINST AFGHANS PLANNED

Karachi DAWN in English 20 Oct 86 p 8

[Text]

KARACHI, Oct 19: A major operation is likely to begin against encroachment on Govrenment land by a large number of Afghan refugees who have managed to come to the city unauthorisedly from various tented villages set up for them in NWFP and Baluchistan.

The official sources said the encroachment menace has increased to such an extent that the matter was being taken up at a higher level and a drastic action was anticipated in the next few days.

The main thrust of the encroachers was in Scheme-33 (Gulzar-i-Hijri) near Bara Market and also the land allotted to various housing societies in the scheme.

The Afghan refugees were also found making encroachment in some of KDA schemes like Gulshan-i-Iqbal and Clifton.

The KDA's demolition squads have conducted major operation and removed all the encroachments from these areas and now

they are being patrolled regularly by the KDA's staff of anti-encroachment cell.

In KDA Scheme-33 an anti-encroachment operation was started about a week back jointly by KDA nd administration of Karachi District East and till today some 4,000 encroachments are estimated to have been removed.

A report submitted to the higher authorities has pointed out that some of the pockets encroached upon in Scheme 33 have turned into big narcotic dens. Recently the Excise Police, the Gulzar-i-Hijri police and the Pakistan Narcotic Control Board jointly raided these pockets and seized contraband heroin and charas in fairly large quantities.

During the last six months, the crime branch of Excise Department and Excise Police have recovered 385 kgs of heroin from this area. —APP.

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CSO: 4600/36

BRIEFS

JUP LEADER JOINS NPP--Lahore, 20 Oct--Milik Mohammad Akbar Saqi, ex-Secretary, Jamiat-i-Ulema Pakistan Punjab on Sunday announced to join the National People's Party while addressing a Press conference, attended by top brass of NPP. He said after much consideration he found NPP the only party in Pakistan which could safeguard the country's integrity. Mr S. M. Zafar, chief organiser, NPP and Mr Hanif Ramay, Secretary General NPP also attended the Press Conference. Jatoi Phobia: Leaders of the National People's Party have strongly criticised the statement of Ms Benazir Bhutto about the formation of NPP. According to a Press Release issued here on Sunday, a meeting of NPP workers held under the chairmanship of Mr Muhammad Mustansar Asad, examined the statement of Ms Benazir Bhutto and reiterated that the NPP has been formed in the best interest of the Federation of Pakistan. The Press Release said that Ms Bhutto was suffering from Jatoi-phobia and has forgotten his sacrifices. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 21 Oct 86 p 3] /9274

WEINBERGER'S VISIT CRITICIZED--Karachi, 20 Oct--Maulana Javed Nomani, a leader of the Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam, said on Sunday that the Government had "converted the country into a military cantonment" by setting up bases at Pano Aqil in Sind and Girwit and Adhi Kot in Khushab district (Punjab). He criticised the visit of U.S. Secretary of Defence, Mr Caspar Weinberger, saying it had contributed to increased tension within the country. The JUI leader further condemned the recent detention and harassment of nine students belonging to the JUI wing when they were found putting up posters regarding their coming convention. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 21 Oct 86 p 5] /9274

CSO: 4600/37

PAPER SCORES U.S. DISINFORMATION, LOCAL OFFICIALS

BK210621 Colombo SUN in English 13 Oct 86 p 7

[Editorial: "Thou Shalt Not Lie"]

[Text] There are many varieties of lies--white lies and damn lies, half-truths and statistics. The U.S. administration's "disinformation" campaign against Libya's Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi is perhaps a combination of all these.

Last Wednesday, the State Department's spokesman Bernald Kalb resigned in protest against this disinformation campaign, saying he was concerned about American credibility and his own credibility as a professional journalist.

Kalb, veteran radio and TV news correspondent, said he wanted to show there would be a cost if the U.S. administration considered a program of lying to the news media and people.

Other leading administration officials have admitted the "disinformation" campaign aimed at keeping al-Qadhdhafi nervous about his personal and political stability. But they deny any intention to mislead or deceive the media and the people.

Facts are stubborn. Facts are sacred. Facts are facts and facts are absolute. There is no degree of fact. Something is either an absolute fact or a falsehood. Thus it would be ridiculous to say there is no intention to deceive, while admitting there is planned, deliberate "disinformation".

President Reagan's men have in recent years coined some outrageous phrases to describe inconsistencies, immoralities or absurdities in administration policies. They spoke of "constructive-engagement" when justifying the pig-headed policy towards P.W. Botha's racists, a policy which the American Congress and the people so magnificently overrode recently.

Now one man, and we are proud he is a fellow journalist, has stood up against the policy of disinformation, an official euphemism for lies.

Truth alone stands the test of time. Lies in any form, will soon be exposed. This is a fundamental truism, that the powerful America and the not-so-powerful countries such as Sri Lanka must accept and honour.

The lessons for Sri Lanka are clear. In the bloody ethnic conflict here, it is not only the Eelam lobby that has waged disinformation campaigns. Some amateurish, misguided government officials have also shown a tendency to indulge in this counterproductive exercise.

Over the past few years, several top officials have blundered horribly in providing information to the media.

As a result, foreign newsmen especially have been forced to depend on second-hand, unreliable sources for their information. Thus did the foreign media carry bloated figures and details based on emotional outbursts. Official denials are vague and commonplace. They have little effect.

The local media conglomerates and new outfits which are spawned periodically, are sadly lacking in professionals of the calibre and credibility of a Bernard Kalb. Regrettably only a handful of media persons have displayed the professional skill, and integrity necessary to provide a free and fair coverage of the events here.

We urge the government, even at this late stage, to begin an effort to repair the damage caused by amateurish information officers. We require men who are loyal not only to the state but, more important loyal to the truth and to the ethics of information.

Former journalist, State Minister Anandatissa de Alwis has the talents and the capability of cleaning up the Augean Stables.

He must be given a free hand.

There should be no multifarious alternative information systems running parallel to each other. That is like having donkeys do the watchdog's work.

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